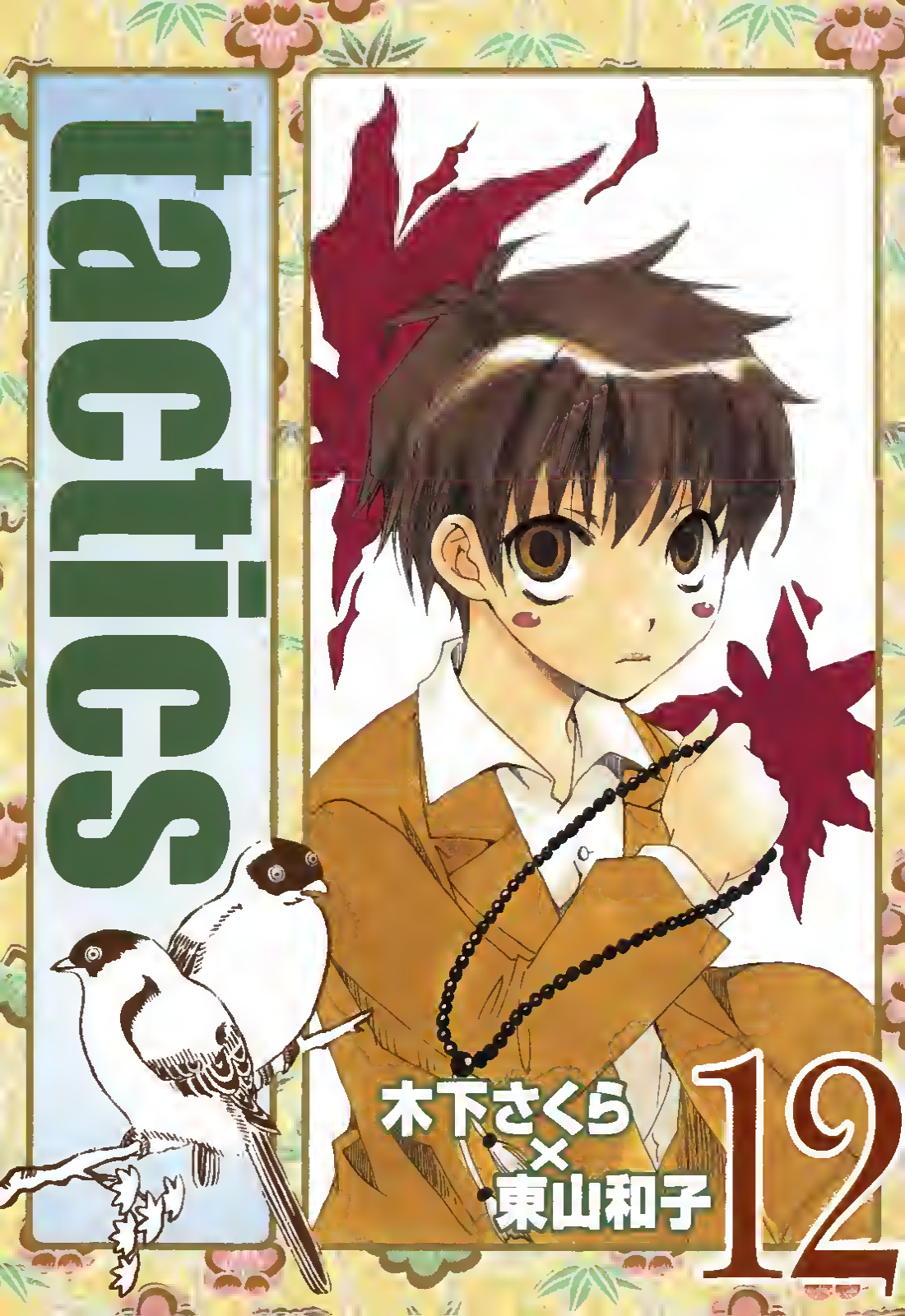
tactics



木下さくら
×
東山和子

12

木下さくら×東山和子
tactics12

tactics

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

12

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend

Kishimojin

Part I 3

Part II 33

Part III 65

Part IV 95

Part V 119

Bonus Manga

The Youkai Big-Eater 147

Fly Away! Tactics Academy 169

The grief of one who loses a single child out of a thousand ...
...is as nothing compared to the grief of one whose only child has been eaten.

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part I

zzsh
zzsh
zzsh

skrsh
skrsh

skrnch
spirch

skrsh

WHO ARE YOU...?
skrnch
squelch
!
jolt

JUST A DREAM...
DAMN... WHAT THE HELL WAS...?
A DREAM?

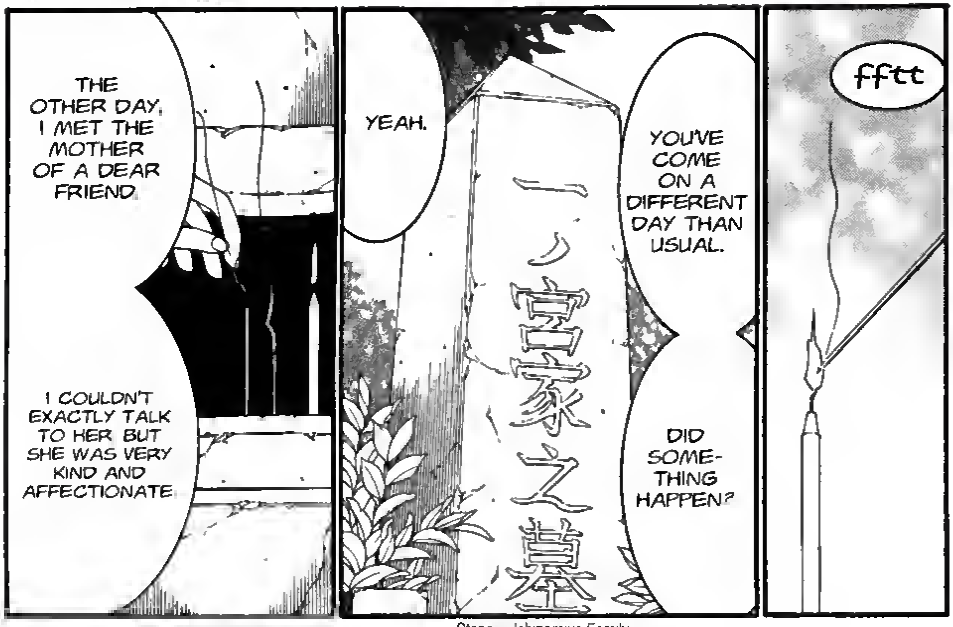
HARUKA-CHAN, IT'S MORNING!!
RISE AND SHINE, SLEEPY-HEAD!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HARUKA-CHAN? IT TOOK YOU EVEN LONGER THAN USUAL TO GET UP.
YEAH...
I WAS HAVING THIS DREAM...
HM?
WHERE'S KANTA-ROU?
YEAH, Y'SEE..
HE'S HARDLY EVER GONE THIS EARLY.

TODAY HE--
HE SAID HE WOULD BE PAYING A VISIT TO A GRAVE.
LIKELY THE GRAVE OF HIS MOTHER, WHICH HE VISITS EVERY MONTH.
barge
I WAS GONNA SAY THAT !!
STILL, IT IS ODD, AS HIS MONTHLY VISIT USUALLY TAKES PLACE ON A DIFFERENT DAY.
HEY !!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
HE NEVER TELLS PEOPLE THAT MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF.
IT WAS IN HIS SORCERER REGIMENT CASE FILE.
OH!
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT KAN-CHAN RECENTLY MET YOUR MOTHER TREE, HARUKA-CHAN?
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME HE'S GONE OUT OFF-SCHEDULE.
MAYBE THAT MADE HIM FEEL LIKE VISITING HIS OWN MOTHER'S GRAVE.
THAT MAKES SENSE!

...
ME TOO!
AH, WHAT A LUCKY FELLOW! I WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOUR MUM AS WELL!
BRICK
OW!
YIKES!
I CUT MY HAND ON A THORN IN HER BARK!
JEEZ... LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD!
I'LL GIVE YOU FIRST-AID, MISTER KANTAROU. FIRST WE SMEAR WITH MEDICINAL HERBS...
...THEN WE WRAP IN A BANDAGE, AND NOW WE'RE DONE!
OH! THANKS!
MOTHER HAD NEVER HARMED ANYBODY BEFORE.

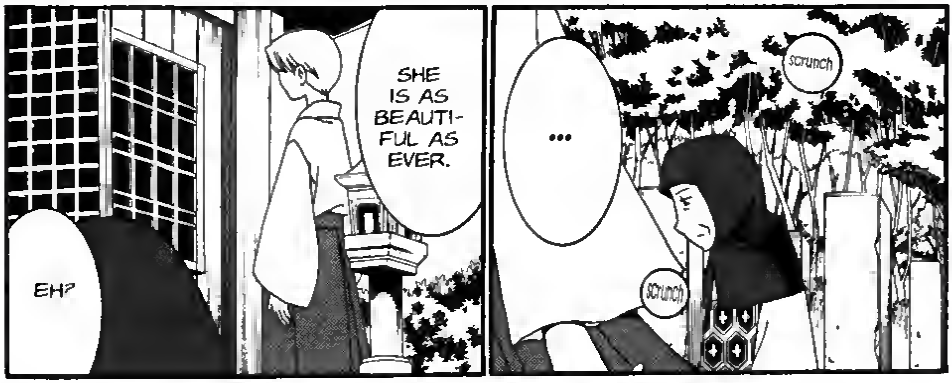
WHAT WAS HER PURPOSE IN HURTING HIM?

scrunch
scrunch
KANTA-ROU...!
MOTHER.


THE OTHER DAY, I MET THE MOTHER OF A DEAR FRIEND.
I COULDN'T EXACTLY TALK TO HER BUT SHE WAS VERY KIND AND AFFECTIONATE.
YEAH.
一ノ宮家之墓
YOU'VE COME ON A DIFFERENT DAY THAN USUAL.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
ffft

Stone Ichinomiya Family

...I JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO COME AND EXPRESS MY RESENTMENT.
AND SO, THINKING ABOUT HOW MY OWN MOTHER WAS RELATIVELY LACKING IN AFFECTION...



KISHI-MOJIN.
SHE WAS ORIGINALLY THE WIFE OF A DEMON, AND MOTHER OF A THOUSAND CHILDREN, BUT SHE ALSO SNATCHED AWAY AND DEVOURED HUMAN CHILDREN.
BUDDHA HID HER MOST BELOVED YOUNGEST CHILD TO MAKE HER REALIZE THE SORROW AND TERROR OF PARENTS LOSING THEIR CHILDREN, AND THUS CONVERTED HER TO BUDDHISM.
AND IS THUS ENSHRINED AT THIS TEMPLE.
SINCE THEN, KISHIMOJIN IS BELIEVED TO GRANT EASY DELIVERY AND BLESSING IN CHILD-REARING.

KAN-TAROU, THAT'S...
WHAT SORT OF KARMA WAS IT THAT LED TO MY BIRTH MOTHER BEING BURIED AT THIS TEMPLE...
...AFTER NEVER SHOWING ANY CONCERN FOR HER OWN SON WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE?
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT MY BIRTH MOTHER HAD YOU AS HER SISTER.

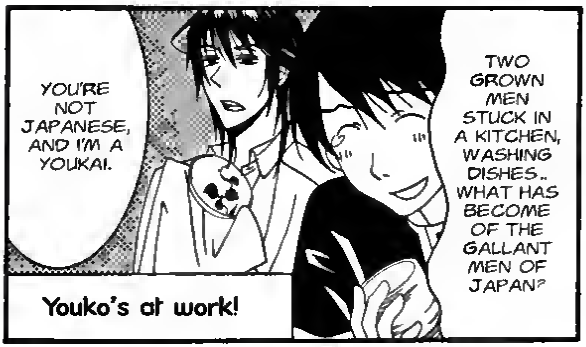
...A WOMAN LIKE HER TO SLEEP AT KISHI-MOJIN'S KNEE.
IF YOU WEREN'T AT THIS TEMPLE, THEY WOULD HAVE NEVER ALLOWED...

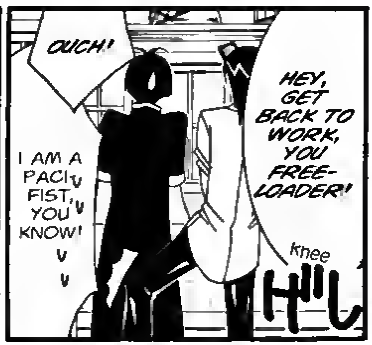
A SHIRA-BYOSHI DANCER ...
...AND A WOMAN OF PLEASURE.
I HARBORED A DEEP LOATHING FOR HER... BUT THEN, WHO WOULDN'T?
HAVING A WHORE FOR A MOTHER AND ALL.
YOUR MOTHER WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
SHE COULD CERTAINLY TWIST MEN AROUND HER LITTLE FINGER, I'LL GIVE HER THAT MUCH.

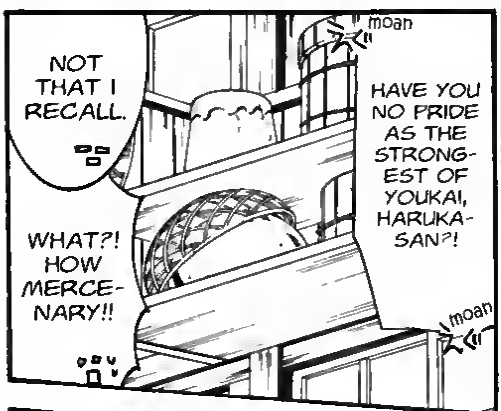
I LOOKED DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE, AND DUE TO THE SPIRITUAL POWER I INHERITED FROM HER, I SAW DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER PEOPLE
I WAS COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY ALONE
I HAD NO FRIENDS, AND WHEN I WENT HOME, I HAD NO MOTHER...

EVEN IN THE MOMENT WHEN I WATCHED HER DIE--
KAN-TAROU...!
I CAN STILL EXACTLY PICTURE THE LOOK SHE HAD ON HER FACE AS SHE DIED...
BECAUSE I...

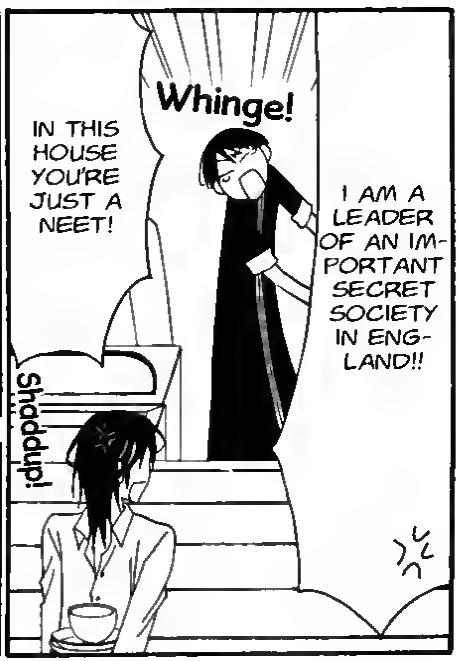
Yaaawn!


YOU'RE NOT JAPANESE, AND I'M A YOUKAI.
TWO GROWN MEN STUCK IN A KITCHEN, WASHING DISHES.. WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE GALLANT MEN OF JAPAN?
Youko's at work!


OUCH!
I AM A PACIFIST, YOU KNOW!
HEY, GET BACK TO WORK, YOU FREE-LOADER!
knee


moan
NOT THAT I RECALL.
HAVE YOU NO PRIDE AS THE STRONGEST OF YOUKAI, HARUKA-SAN?!
moan
WHAT?! HOW MERCENARY!!

HEY, IS THAT STUFF REALLY TRUE, ABOUT YOU HAVING NO MONEY AND NOT BEING ABLE TO GO BACK TO THAT MINAMOTO BRAT'S HOME?


Whinge!
IN THIS HOUSE YOU'RE JUST A NEET!
I AM A LEADER OF AN IMPORTANT SECRET SOCIETY IN ENGLAND!!
Shaddup!

HOW VERY UNUSUAL FOR YOU.
AREN'T YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME?
OHO!
YOU SHOW NO ABIDING INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE'S ACTIONS, TO SAY NOTHING OF YOUR OWN...
...YET YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY MOVEMENTS?
stash
clink
ARE YOU KEEPING AN EYE ON ME TO ENSURE THAT I DON'T HARM KANTAROU-SAN OR YOUKO-SAN?

thunk
REST ASSURED I WILL NOT LAY A HAND ON THOSE TWO.
I PREFER TO FIGHT THOSE WHO ARE STRONG.
THEN YOUR TARGET IS...
ALTHOUGH RIGHT AT THE MOMENT I WOULD PREFER NOT TO FIGHT YOU EITHER, KANTAROU-SAN CAN ALWAYS STOP YOU FROM QUARRELING WITH ME, YOU SEE.
INCIDENT-ALLY, HARUKA-SAN.
...YOU WERE MOANING QUITE A BIT THIS MORNING.
WAS THAT THE CAUSE OF YOUR OVER-SLEEPING?
WELL...

I HAVE HEARD THAT DISCUSSING A BAD DREAM WITH SOMEONE ELSE CAN ALLEVIATE ITS IMPACT.
MAY I ASK YOU MORE ABOUT IT?
...
ALL RIGHT.
TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
HUH?! WAIT, HARUKA-SAN!!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DISCUSS IT WITH ME! HOW VERY RUDE!
RIGHT... THAT WAS A DREAM...

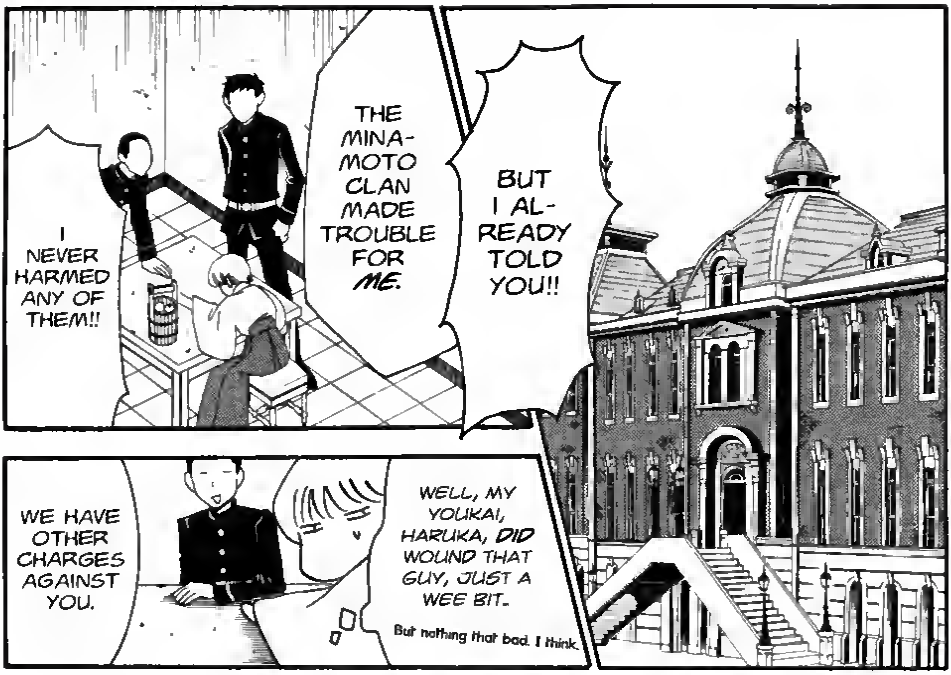
A MEMORY FROM MY PAST.

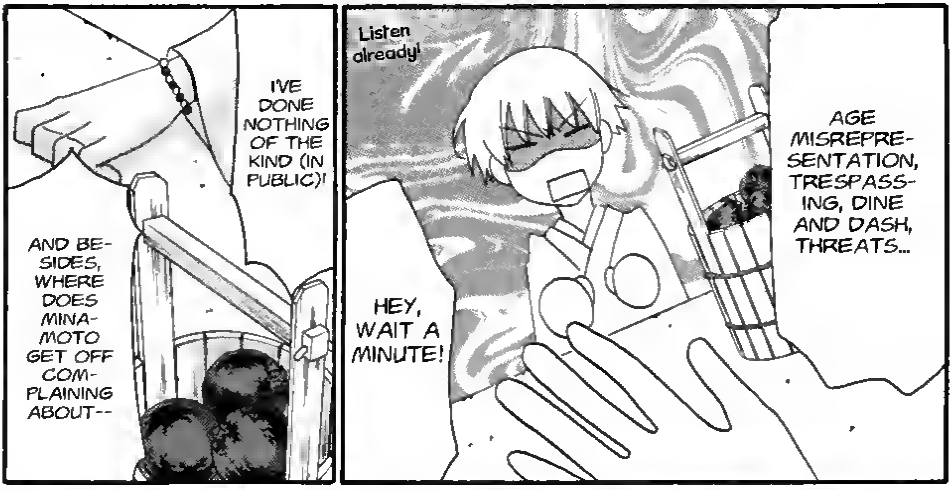
BUT IT'S ALSO A MEMORY.

I HAVEN'T HAD...
CANCELING FUJI'S NAME-CONTRACT HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED MATTERS.
...A DREAM LIKE THAT SINCE KANTAROU UNSEALED ME.

...THEY'RE... SO...
MOTHER GAVE ME ALL THESE POME-GRANATES SHE PICKED, BUT...
THEY'RE KINDA PEBBLY IN TEX-TURE...
ICK...
I DON'T LIKE THE TASTE MUCH EITHER.
HMM... POME-GRAN-ATES...
... HEAVY.
SURE, SHE GROWS POME-GRANATES BECAUSE KISHIMOJIN HOLDS ONE, BUT THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS.
KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA, I PRESUME?
I KNOW! I'LL GO HOME AND MAKE EDWARDS EAT THEM!

SKFF
Huh?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, SAVE IT FOR THE STATION.
WHAA?!


I NEVER HARMED ANY OF THEM!!
THE MINAMOTO CLAN MADE TROUBLE FOR ME.
BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU!!
WE HAVE OTHER CHARGES AGAINST YOU.
WELL, MY YOUKAI, HARUKA, DID WOUND THAT GUY, JUST A WEE BIT.
But nothing that bad, I think.


I'VE DONE NOTHING OF THE KIND (IN PUBLIC)!
AND BESIDES, WHERE DOES MINAMOTO GET OFF COMPLAINING ABOUT--
Listen already!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
AGE MISREPRESENTATION, TRESPASSING, DINE AND DASH, THREATS...

?!
yank

OW...!
DON'T YOU MEAN "LORD" MINA-MOTO?
A PERSON OF YOUR SOCIAL STATURE HAS NO RIGHT TO USE HIS NAME SO CASUALLY!
wham!
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE OR HAVEN'T DONE.
ALL WE WANT IS FOR YOU TO CON-FESS.
...GHK!

BEG YOUR PARDON.
swish
HEY, YOU'RE...

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE THE OTHER DAY, MASTER ICHINOMIYA.
smile
THEY SHOULD PREPARE TO MOBILIZE, NATIONWIDE.
AS FOR THE OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON STANDBY...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WORK.
WE WILL BE HANDLING THIS INQUIRY FROM NOW ON, AS ARRANGED.
ARE YOU HERE TO BREAK ME...?

PRECISELY.
FROM NOW ON YOUR ADVERSARY IS NO LONGER...
...THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT YOUKAI EXTERMINATOR...

...BUT THE GENERAL OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY SORCERER REGIMENT...
ATSUNORI KONOE, IF YOU PLEASE.

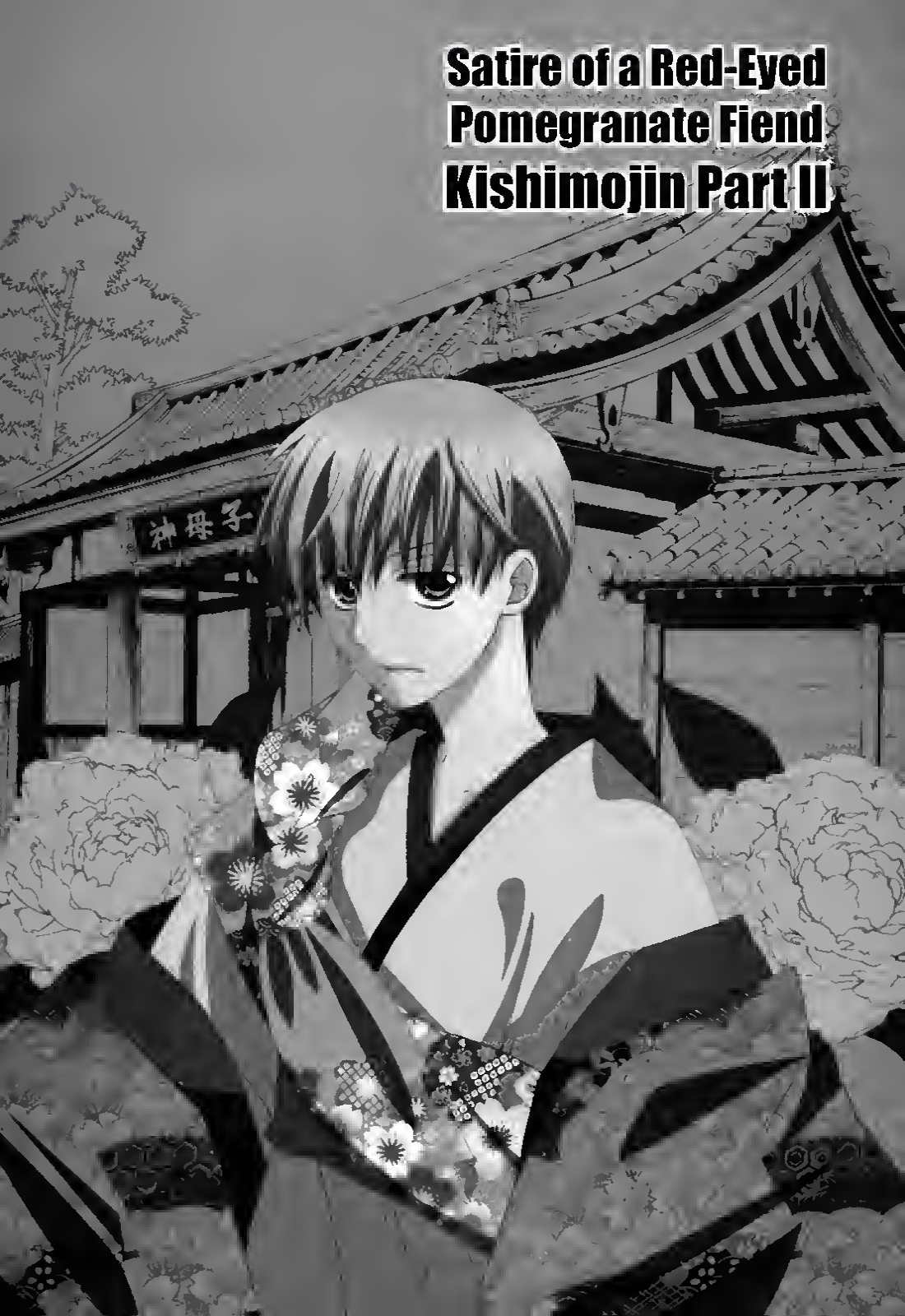
YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF, MISTER ICHINOMIYA.

FOR I WILL BE SURE TO TAKE THE BEAD...
...OF THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.

– tactics12

tactics

A crow
eating a
pomegranate.
it tastes like
human flesh,
they say, and
stains the
beak a deep
red.


Satire of a Red-Eyed
Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part II

YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF, MISTER ICHINO-MIYA.
FOR I WILL BE SURE TO TAKE THE BEAD OF THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.

――…

flap
flap
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
EATING A DEMON WOULD ONLY PROVE THAT I'VE FINALLY RETURNED.
THAT I'M BACK TO MY NATURAL STATE.

HARUKA-SAN!!
I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I FINISHED ALL OF THE CLEANING BY MYSELF.
shhnk
I FEEL I DESERVE SOME MEASURE OF THANKS FROM Y--
AUGH!!!

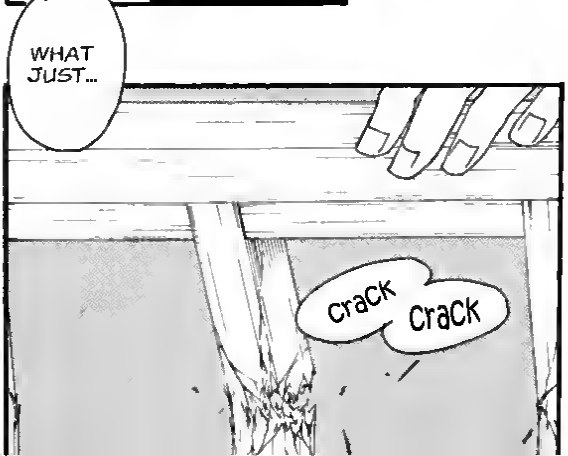
OW!
Yank
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
Gaah, what a pest! Better put my wings away.
whinge whinge
...HM?
NO--!!
YOU JUST WANT TO LEAVE EVEN MORE WORK FOR ME!
AS IF!
OH, NOWHERE REALLY... JUST STROLLING IN THE SKY FOR A CHANGE OF P--

HEY, WHO'S THAT KID?

PERHAPS A NEIGHBOR-HOOD CHILD WHO LOST HIS WAY?
HEEEY! LITTLE BOY!

THIS IS MISTER ICHINO-MIYA'S HOUSE, YOU KNOW!
mutter
mutter

TRES-PASSING ISN'T A NICE THING TO...
HANG ON A SEC.


WHAT JUST...
Crack
Crack

wobble
クリラ
UH?
snap
バキ。。。。
HUUHH?!!
tumble
ゴロォッ

stamp
ダン
MY WINGS! WHERE ARE MY WINGS?!
?!

skrsh
clonk
カン!
OOOF!
皆
KAI
陣
JIN
列
RETSU
在
ZAI
前
ZEN
者
SHA
闘
TOU
兵
PYOU
臨
RIN
fwoom
WHO THE HELL...

...ARE YOU?
YOU'LL LEARN PLENTY ABOUT THAT, SINCE YOU'RE COMING WITH US LIKE IT OR NOT...
HON-ESTLY.
...DEMON-EATING TENGU.
YOU HAVE FAR TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS.
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU. THIS IS WORK!
WORK?

RIGHT NOW, IT'S MY DUTY TO CATCH YOU AND BRING YOU TO THE ARMY.
COME ALONG QUIETLY, AND YOU'LL EVEN GET TO SEE YOUR MASTER THERE TOO.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ICHINOMIYA'S BEEN ARRESTED. HE DOES HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD, FORTUNATELY FOR US.
peeved
MISTER SAKATA, IT MIGHT BE RASH TO TELL HIM ABOUT TH--
HE'S BOUND UP NOW, SO WHY NOT?
...
BECAUSE OF YOU AND ICHINOMIYA, MASTER RAIKOU IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS...
...AND I'M LEFT HAVING TO BABY-SIT THIS KID.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, DEMON-EATING TENGU.

OHO, IF IT ISN'T SAKATA-SAN OVER THERE!
I KNEW I HEARD A CERTAIN SHRILL VOICE.
AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS READY TO ROLL WITH ANY PUNCHES.
URRGH.
Owuuie...

I THOUGHT I HADN'T SEEN YOU AROUND LATELY, BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE OF ALL PLACES?!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU UP TO?!

COME WITH US FOR THE TIME BEING, MASTER EDWARDS.
Om kirikyara harahara.
PLEASE, SAKATA-SAN, THINK OF IT AS TAKING A LITTLE BREAK!
YOU'RE AN HONORED GUEST! I'D PREFER THAT YOU NOT GO WANDERING OFF LIKE THIS!!
...

swish
Om bazarado shakoku.
snap
GWAH!
Ka-shing
Ka-shing
skuff
WHY YOU--!
?!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
STOP HIM AT ONCE!
shuip

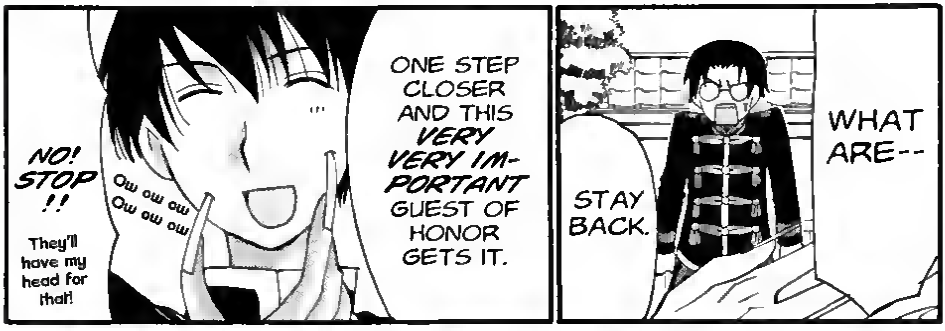
!

swoosh

SUCH POWER AT YOUR AGE...
grab
ARE YOU OF THE MINAMOTO CLAN?
cling

pounp
AND WHAT IF I AM?
...
Creep, Creep
YOU... YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO SHOOT YOU FIRST
Hし☆
wham
so close
IURK!

WHAAA ?!
I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU NOT DO THAT.


NO! STOP !!
They'll have my head for that!
Ow ow ow Ow ow ow
ONE STEP CLOSER AND THIS VERY VERY IMPORTANT GUEST OF HONOR GETS IT.
STAY BACK.
WHAT ARE--

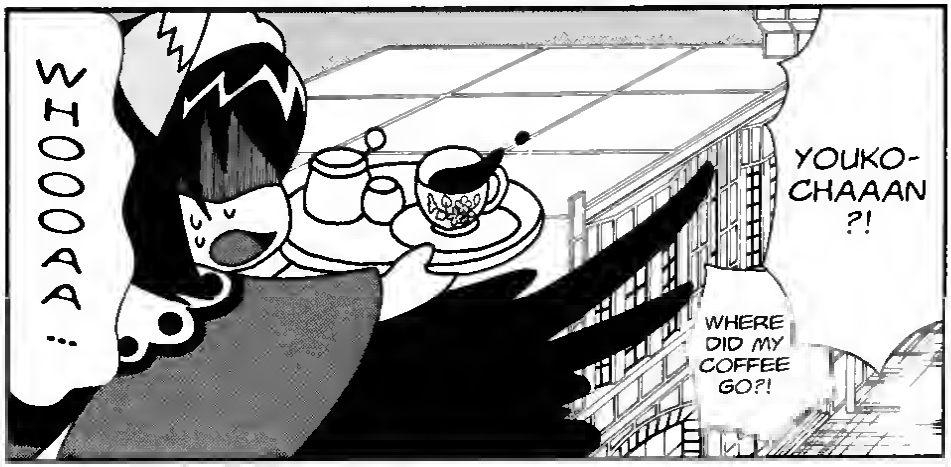
flap
MUCH APPRECIATED.
GEH ...!
fwoom
RETSU 列 ZAI 在 ZEN 前！
RIN 臨 PYOU 兵 TOU 闘 SHA 者 KAI 皆 JIN 陣

FOUR--
WHY YOU--!!
FOUR-EYES.
THAT WAS SOME VERY USEFUL INFORMA-TION...
I DO NOT HAVE FOUR EYES!!
snap
パチン
I'VE NEVER HAD A YOUKAI USE A KUJI ON ME BEFORE.

SO THAT'S OUR CURRENT FAMILY HEAD'S NEMESIS...
...THE LEGENDARY DEMON-EATING TENGU.
WEL-COME! ♡
YOU'RE SHOWING A LOT OF SPIRIT TODAY, YOUKO-CHAN!
OF COURSE! ♡ I'M WORKING HARD TO EARN A LIVING!
slam

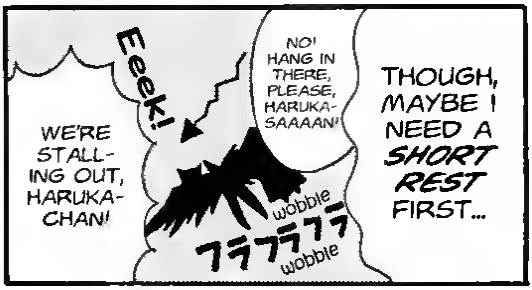
tactics 12

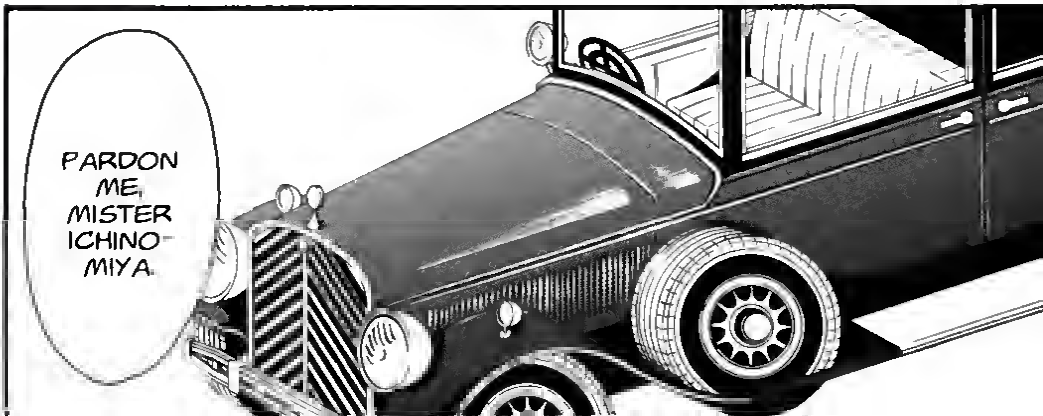
GOODNESS ME, BUT THAT WAS A STARTLING GUST HOW ARE YOU, YOUKO-CHA--
gone
HM?!
whoosh
EEEK!


WOOOAH!
YOUKO-CHAAAN?!
WHERE DID MY COFFEE GO?!

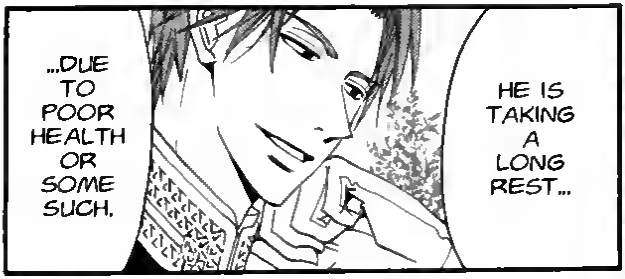
IT SEEMS KANTAROU HAS BEEN ARRESTED.
HUH?!
How can you be so sure?
HARUKA-CHAN. WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!

ONCE WE FIND SOME-PLACE TO HIDE OUT...
...I'M GOING TO RESCUE KANTA-ROU.
MINA-MOTO'S UNDER-LINGS CAME BY TO CAPTURE ME TOO.
WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR A WHILE.
OH NO!
What about our precious few valuables?!

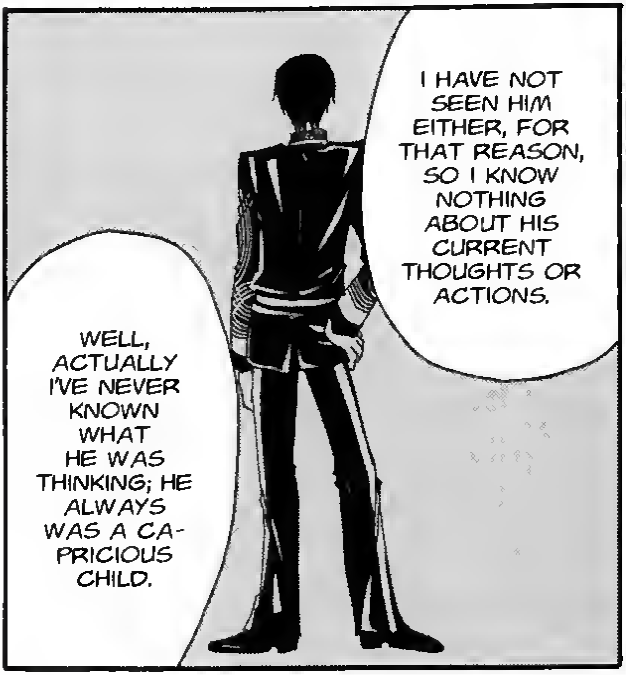

Eeek!
WE'RE STALL-ING OUT, HARUKA-CHAN!
NO! HANG IN THERE, PLEASE, HARUKA-SAAAAN!
wobble
フラフラフラ
wobble
THOUGH, MAYBE I NEED A SHORT REST FIRST...

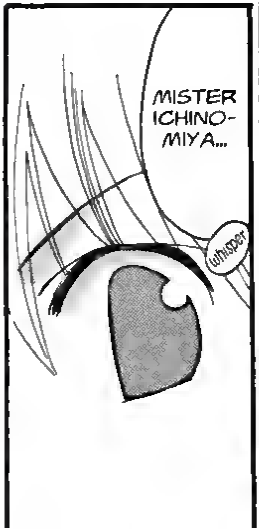

PARDON ME, MISTER ICHINO-MIYA.

WON'T YOU HAVE SOME POME-GRANATE?
NAH, I'LL PASS.
REALLY? I'M NOT SURE THAT I CAN FINISH A WHOLE ONE BY MYSELF...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THIS WITH ME, FOR NOW.
BY THE WAY, MISTER ICHINO-MIYA, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUES-TIONS FOR ME?
HUH?
Take it with you?
I AM RATHER UNCOM-FORTABLE WITH SI-LENCES.
OKAY, THEN.
I HEARD THAT HE HASN'T LEFT HIS ROOM.
WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH RAIKOU MINA-MOTO?
ARE YOU WOR-RIED ABOUT HIM?
FRANKLY, NO.
Canard

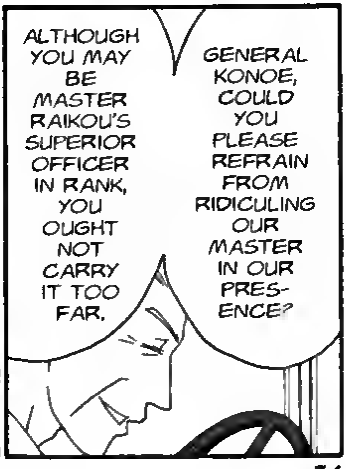

HE IS TAKING A LONG REST...
...DUE TO POOR HEALTH OR SOME SUCH.

BUT I CAN'T PICTURE THAT MAN ABANDONING THINGS SO EASILY.


I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM EITHER, FOR THAT REASON, SO I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIS CURRENT THOUGHTS OR ACTIONS.
WELL, ACTUALLY I'VE NEVER KNOWN WHAT HE WAS THINKING; HE ALWAYS WAS A CAPRICIOUS CHILD.

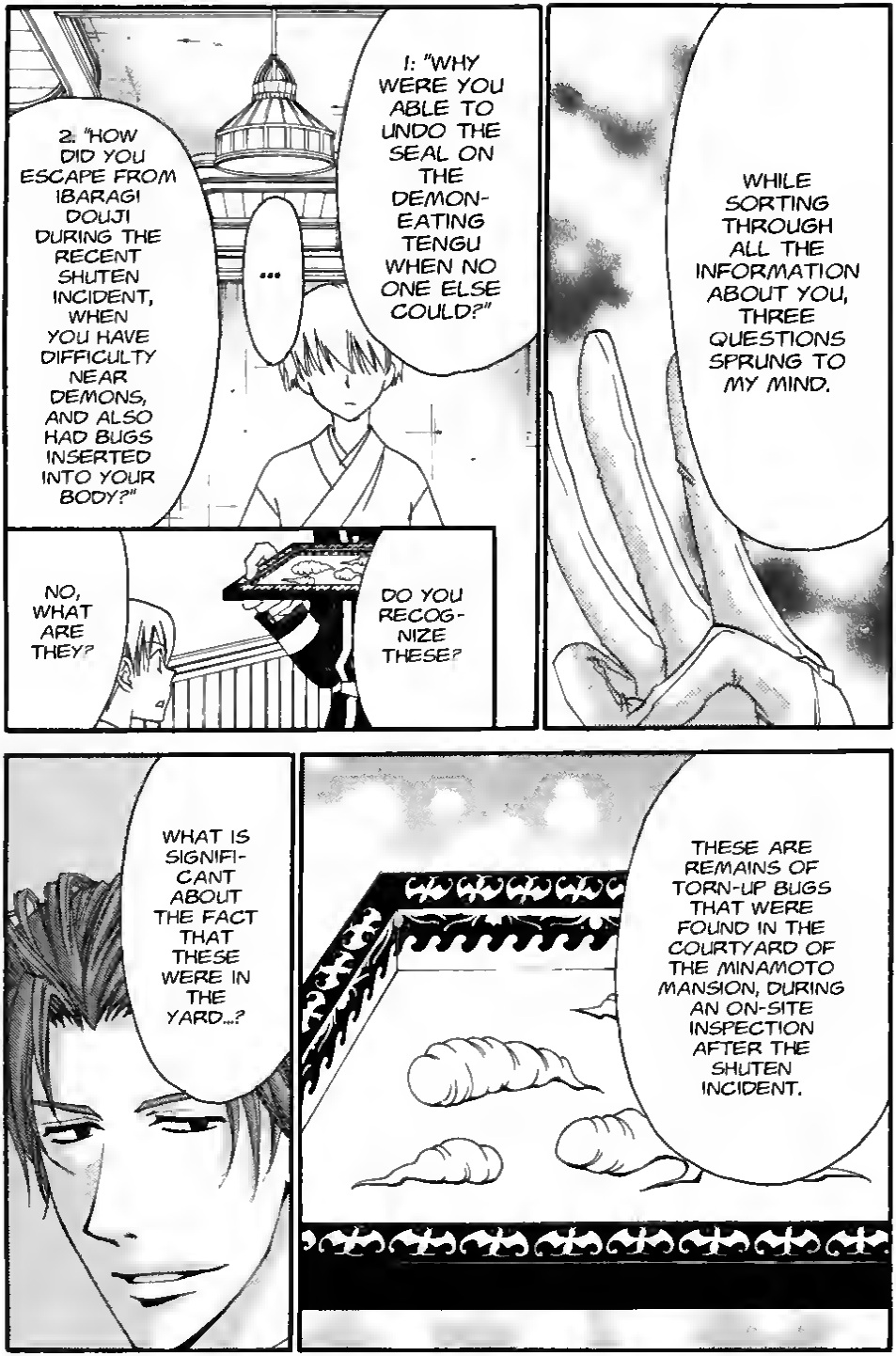

MISTER ICHINOMIYA...
(whisper)

OH, THAT'S TRUE.
MY APOLOGIES.


GENERAL KONOE, COULD YOU PLEASE REFRAIN FROM RIDICULING OUR MASTER IN OUR PRESENCE?
ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE MASTER RAIKOU'S SUPERIOR OFFICER IN RANK, YOU OUGHT NOT CARRY IT TOO FAR.

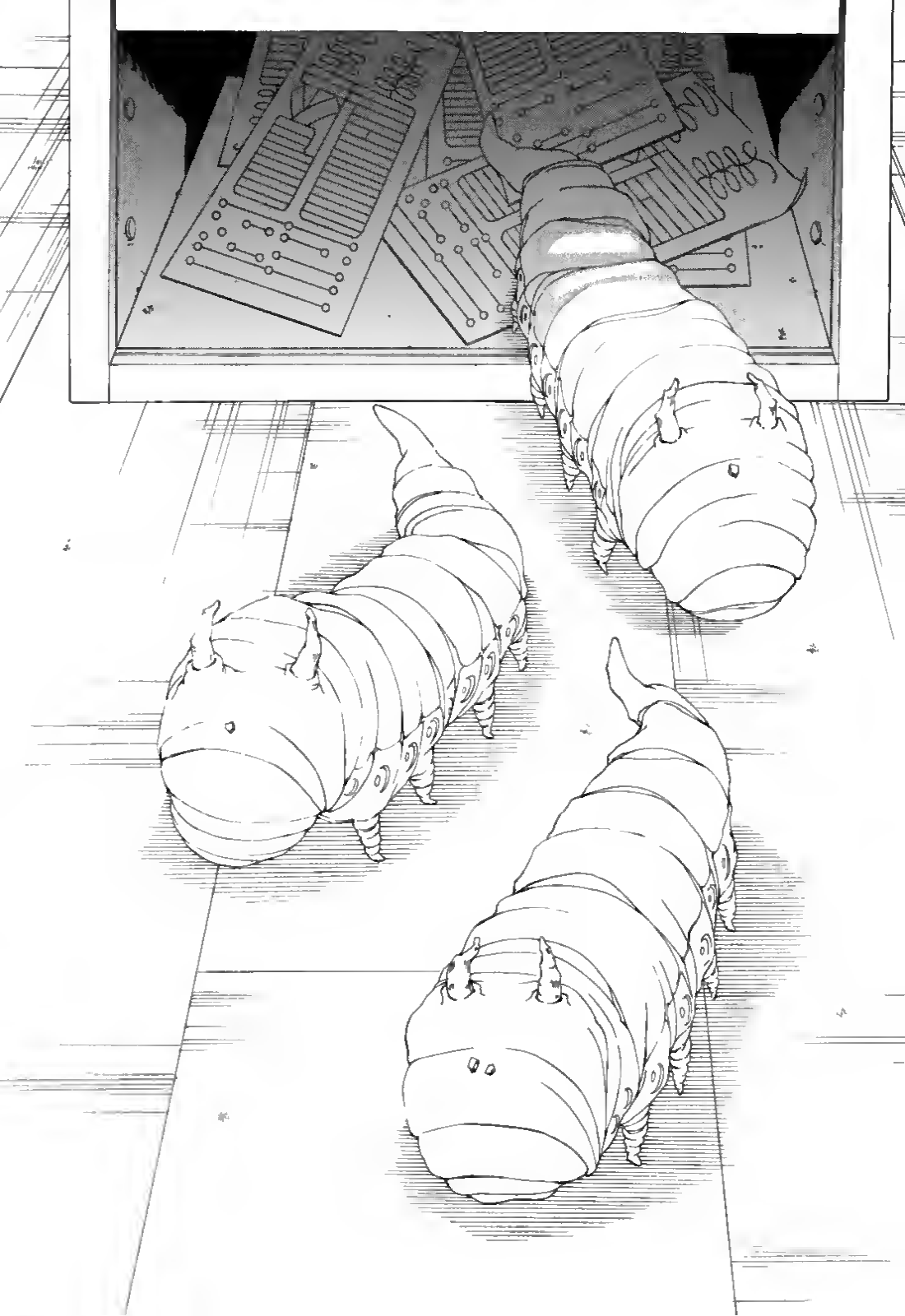
I ADVISE YOU TO BE EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE MAJOR GENERAL MINAMOTO.
BUT WHY...?
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE RATHER RESENTS THE INJURY DONE TO WATANABE, HIS MOST TRUSTED ASSOCIATE.
IF YOU'RE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BUMP INTO HIM, HE MAY KILL BOTH YOU AND THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.
PLEASE DO BE CAREFUL.
...
キィ
screech
AH, WE'VE ARRIVED.

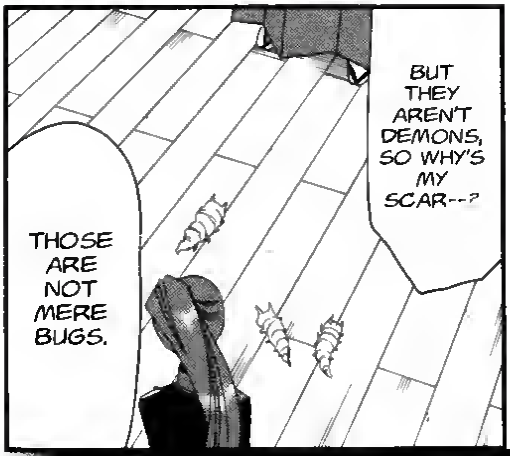
WHERE ARE WE?
THIS WAS FORMERLY THE SITE OF THE COURT-HOUSE.
AND SINCE THE BUILDING STILL RE-MAINS...
NOTE THAT THIS TRIAL WILL NOT INVOLVE LAWYERS.
...YOUR TRIAL TAKES PLACE HERE, STARTING NOW, MISTER ICHINO-MIYA.
grip
!

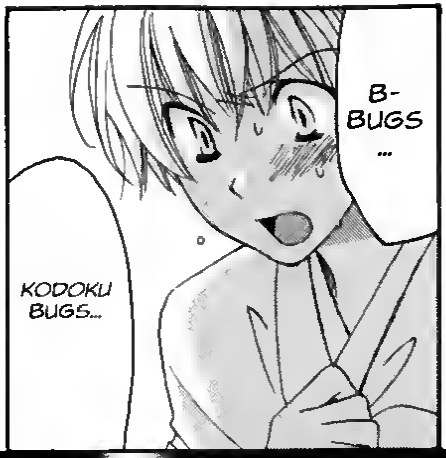

1: "WHY WERE YOU ABLE TO UNDO THE SEAL ON THE DEMON-EATING TENGU WHEN NO ONE ELSE COULD?"
...
2. "HOW DID YOU ESCAPE FROM IBARAGI DOUJI DURING THE RECENT SHUTEN INCIDENT, WHEN YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY NEAR DEMONS, AND ALSO HAD BUGS INSERTED INTO YOUR BODY?"
WHILE SORTING THROUGH ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU, THREE QUESTIONS SPRUNG TO MY MIND.
DO YOU RECOG-NIZE THESE?
NO, WHAT ARE THEY?
THESE ARE REMAINS OF TORN-UP BUGS THAT WERE FOUND IN THE COURTYARD OF THE MINAMOTO MANSION, DURING AN ON-SITE INSPECTION AFTER THE SHUTEN INCIDENT.
WHAT IS SIGNIFI-CANT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THESE WERE IN THE YARD...?

I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HAD EVEN A THOUSAND-TO-ONE CHANCE OF WINNING.
...I TOLD HER I HAD TO USE THE BATHROOM, THEN I RAN AWAY. I DIDN'T FIGHT WITH HER.
...YOU MANAGED TO DEFEAT IBARAGI DOUJI, WHO HAD ABSOLUTELY NO RESTRAINTS AT ALL.
YOU AND IBARAGI WOULD HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE MINAMOTO MANSION.
AND YET, THESE WERE FOUND OUTSIDE, MEANING THAT, WITH A BODY HANDICAPPED BY BOTH CONTACT WITH DEMONS AND BUG INFESTATION...
THAT LEAVES US WITH THE THIRD AND FINAL QUESTION.
BUT LET'S SET IT ASIDE TO ENJOY AT A LATER TIME.
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO IBARAGI AND THOSE CREATURES INSIDE YOU?
I'M...
...
OH REALLY?
AND YET WATANABE HAS TESTIFIED THAT IBARAGI ACTED VERY MUCH AFRAID OF YOU WHILE IN THE TREASURE HOUSE

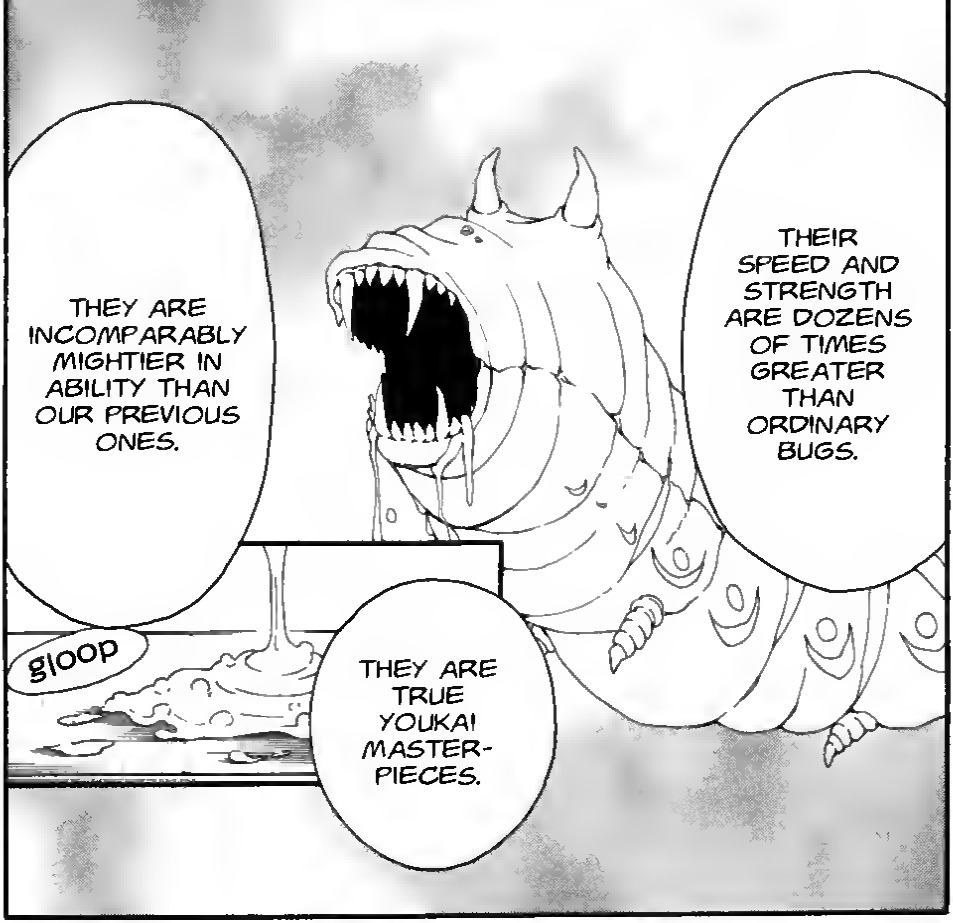
FIRST, WE'LL CONFIRM THE FINDINGS OF OUR INSPECTION.
slide
PAIN ?!
ズキ
zing
?
tunk
ズキ
zing
NO WAY...
THESE ARE...
ズキ
zing
ズキ
zing



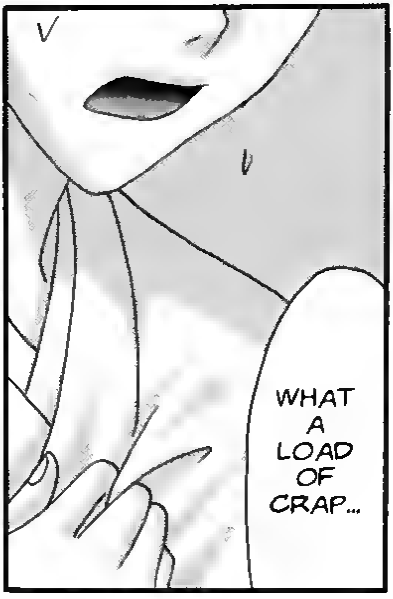

THOSE ARE NOT MERE BUGS.
BUT THEY AREN'T DEMONS, SO WHY'S MY SCAR--?


KODOKU BUGS...
B-BUGS ...

WE TOOK TINY FRAGMENTS OF WHAT REMAINED OF SHUTEN DOUJI'S BEAD...
...AND EMBEDDED THEM IN THESE BUGS.
YOU... WHAT?!
YOU COULD SAY THESE BUGS WERE DEVELOPED BY OUR SORCERER REGIMENT...
...TO BE A NEW VARIETY OF DEMON.


THEIR SPEED AND STRENGTH ARE DOZENS OF TIMES GREATER THAN ORDINARY BUGS.
THEY ARE INCOMPARABLY MIGHTIER IN ABILITY THAN OUR PREVIOUS ONES.
gloop
THEY ARE TRUE YOUKAI MASTER-PIECES.

THEY'VE BEEN AL-TERED BY HUMAN HANDS.


WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP...

THESE ARE NOT YOUKAI.
THEY'RE JUST WRETCHED BEINGS...!
HEH HEH... FITTING WORDS FOR THE GREAT FOLKLORIST IN FAVOR OF AFFIRMING YOUKAI.
BUT CURRENTLY YOU ARE NOT HERE IN YOUR SCHOLARLY CAPACITY.
NOW...
SHOW ME WHAT YOU DID THAT NIGHT...
...TO IBARAGI AND THOSE BUGS.

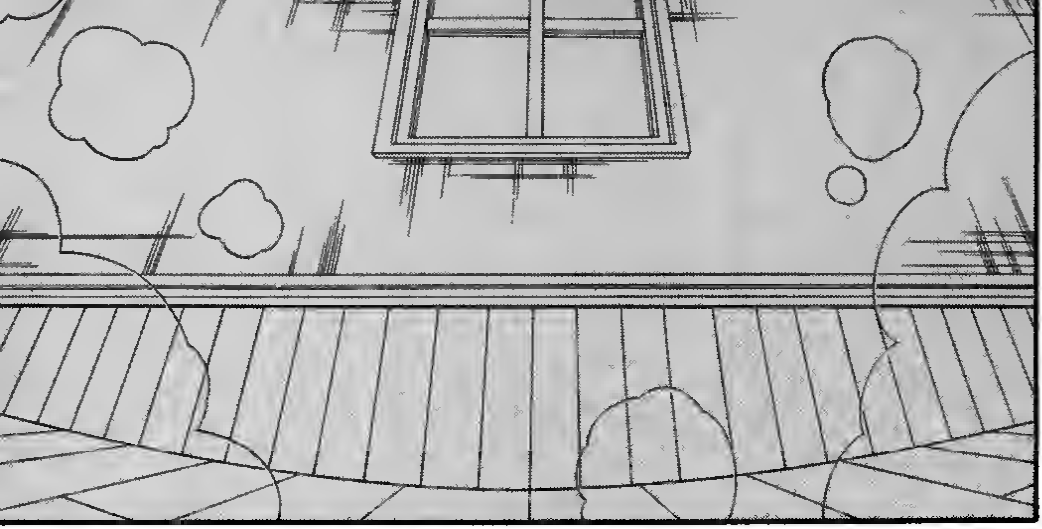
THE CHOICE IS YOURS. WILL YOU KILL THE DEMON BUGS? OR WILL YOU LET THEM KILL YOU?
THOSE ARE YOUR ONLY TWO OPTIONS.

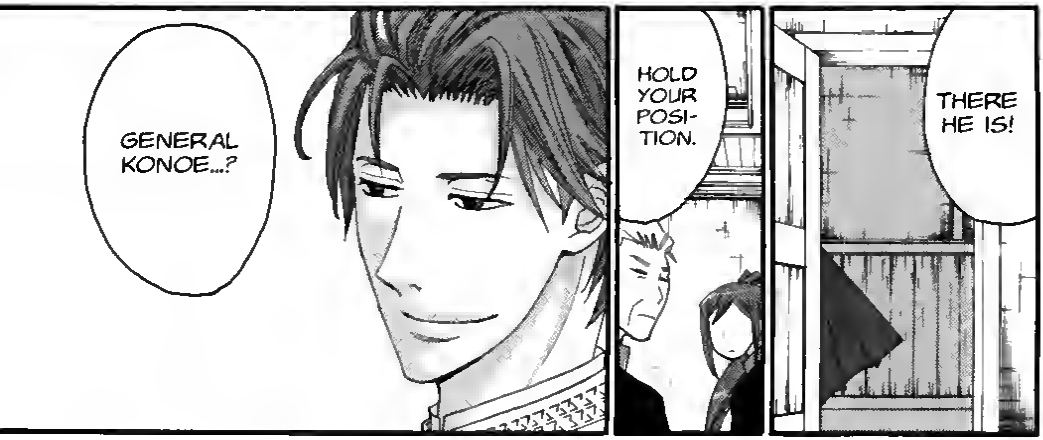
Blossoms
fallen
whole
Camellia
linger on.
In their
great
frailty.

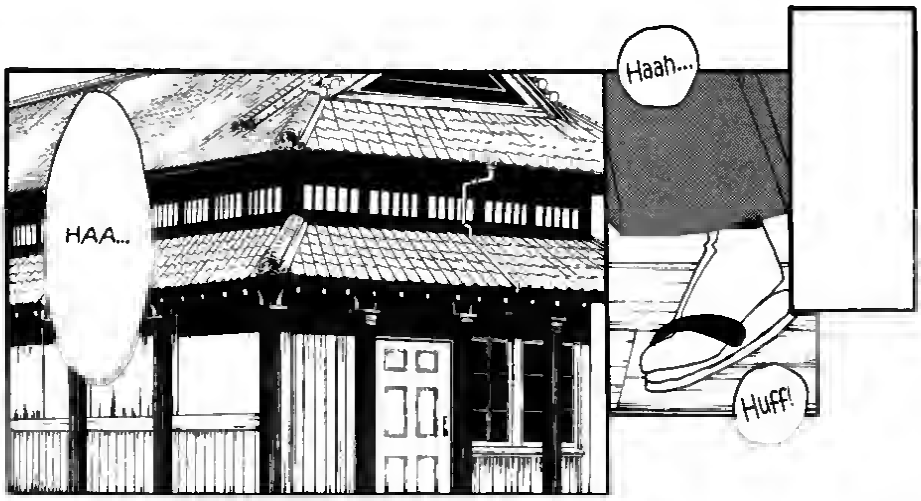
Satire of a Red-Eyed
Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part III

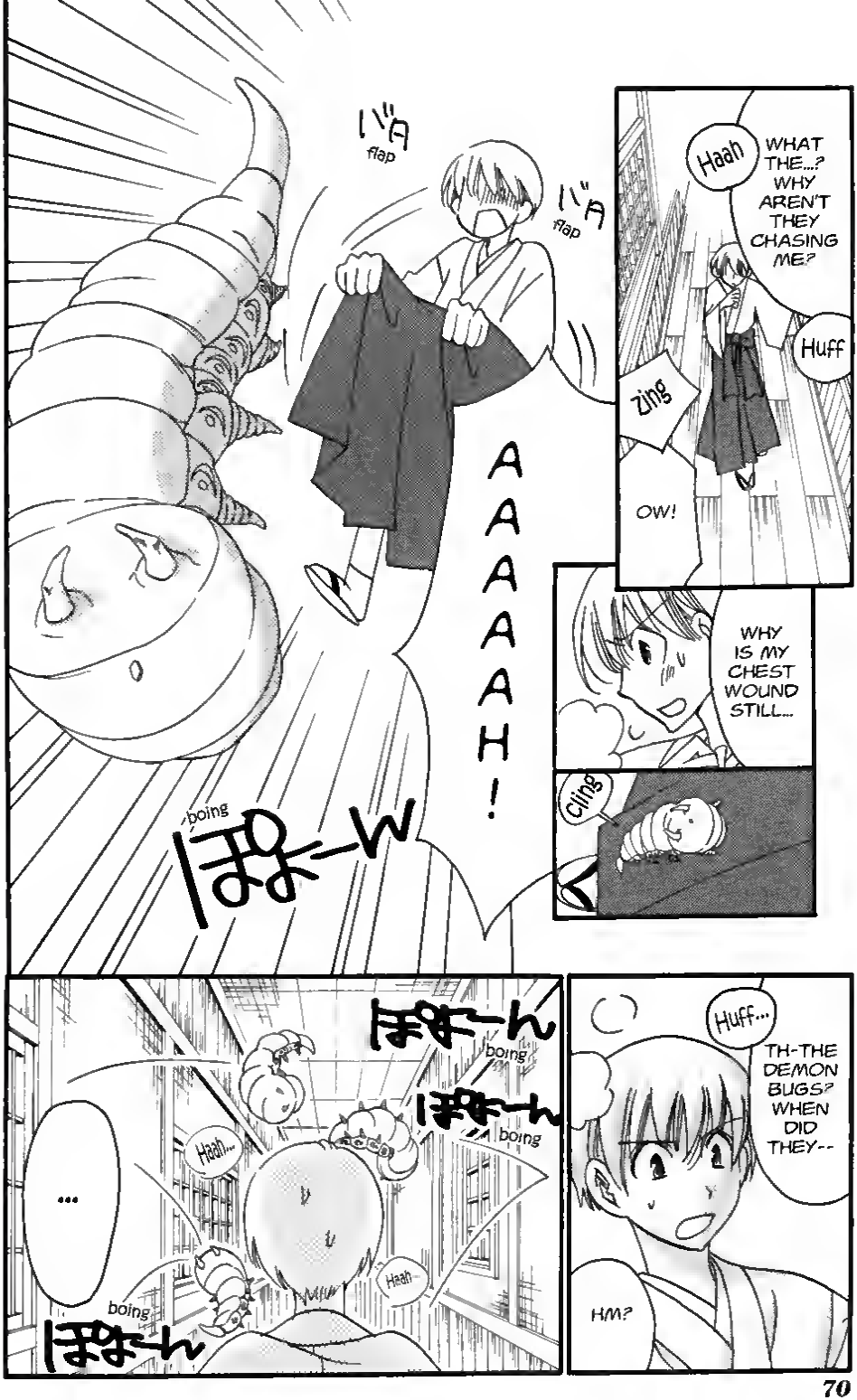
Aaah...
Haah...
Huff...
pounce

wssh
shwoom
zzrt
bam
!




GENERAL KONOE...?
HOLD YOUR POSI-TION.
THERE HE IS!


HAA...
Haah...
Huff!


flap
flap
AAAAAH!
boing
ぼよーん
Haah
WHAT THE...? WHY AREN'T THEY CHASING ME?
Huff
Zing
OW!
WHY IS MY CHEST WOUND STILL...
Cling
ぼよーん
boing
ぼよーん
boing
Haah...
...
Haah
boing
ぼよーん
Huff...
TH-THE DEMON BUGS? WHEN DID THEY--
HM?

...

Bugs like these were originally tools for spells, created through a type of magic called "kodoku."

boing
ぽよーん
ぽよーん
boing

♪

Haah...

COULD IT BE THAT YOU... ENJOY... BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS?

Hff...

The resulting "bug" is then inserted into the body of the intended victim, where it devours that person's internal organs.

A kodoku "bug" is produced by having a large number of insects devour one another, and then applying a spell to the final survivor.

SUDDENLY AWOKEN IN THIS ERA AFTER ONE THOUSAND YEARS...

COME TO THINK OF IT, HARUKA HAS CHANGED AS WELL.

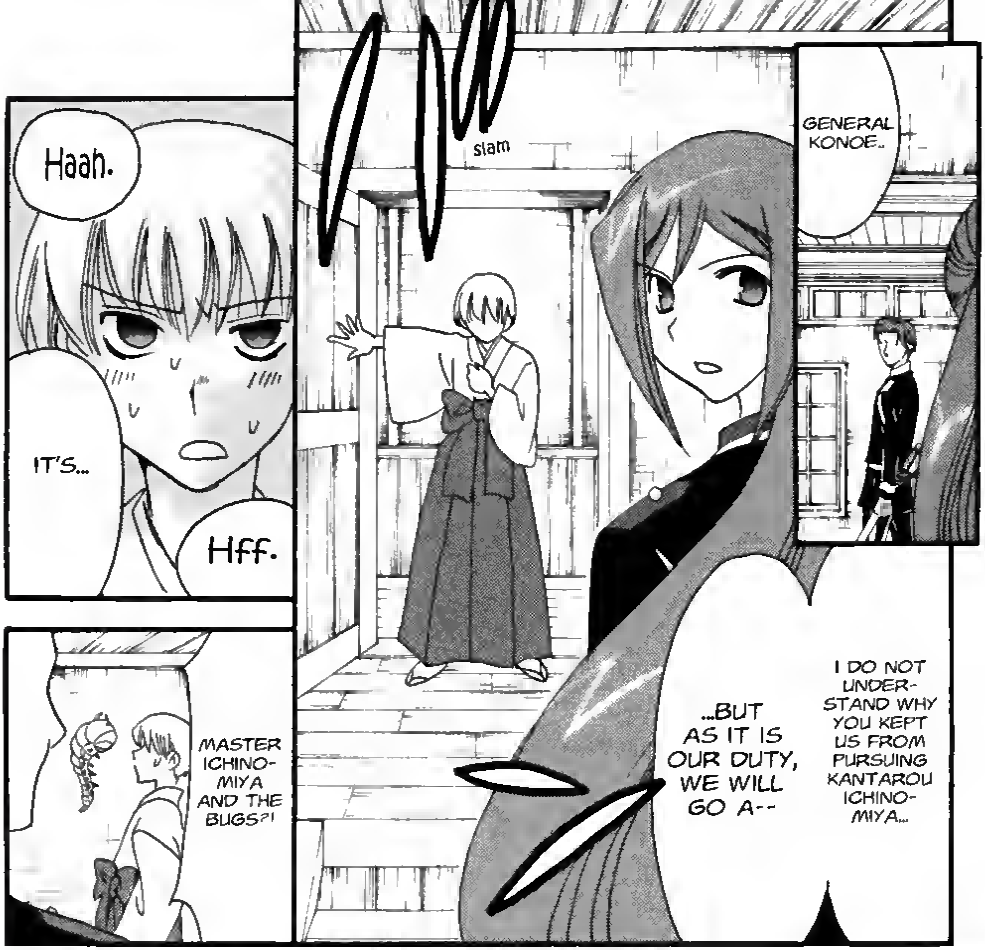
CHANGE ...

...THESE YOUKAI HAVE CHANGED.

THEY SHOULDN'T POSSESS THE INTELLIGENCE TO "ENJOY" EVEN SIMPLE MOVEMENTS... BUT THANKS TO THE SHARD OF SHUTEN DOUJI'S BEAD...

Haa...
HE DID NOTHING BUT ARGUE WITH ME AFTER HE WAS FIRST UNSEALED, BUT RECENTLY HE CHOSE ME OVER LADY FUJI...
Huff...
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE BEGINNING, BUT SINCE THEN HE'S HAD ALL SORTS OF EXPERIENCES.
...
ALL THIS TIME, THOSE ARMY GUYS HAVE BEEN AFTER HARUKA'S YOUKAI BEAD.
Clench
inch
inch
I'M SURE THAT, RIGHT ABOUT NOW, THEY MUST BE GOING FOR HARUKA TOO.
THE HARUKA OF TODAY HAS CHANGED FROM THE HARUKA OF LONG AGO.
I'VE GOT A REALLY ...
..BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS.

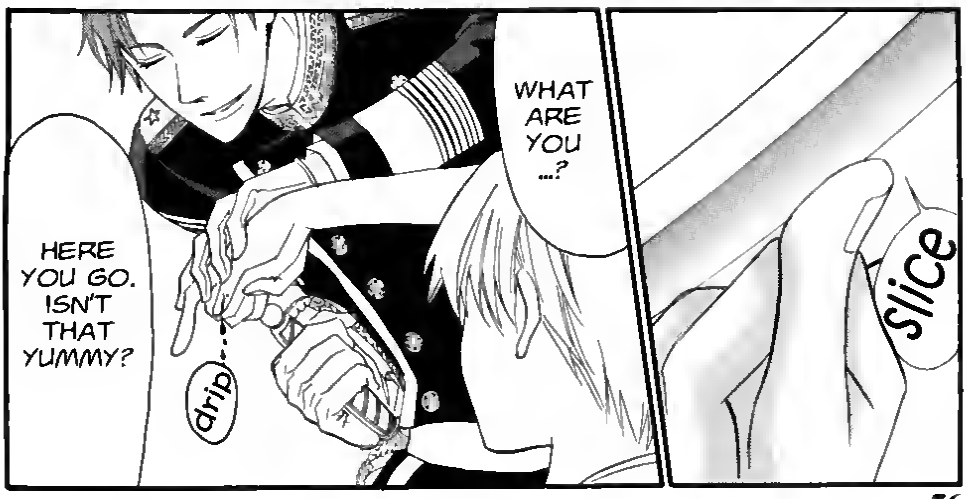
IT MAKES ME SICK, HUMANS USING HARUKA AND YOU BUGS THIS WAY.
snatch
SCreee
SCreee
I CAN'T STAND IT.
SO, I'LL SAVE YOU.
I'LL SAVE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU.


Haah.
IT'S...
Hff.
stam
GENERAL KONOE..
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU KEPT US FROM PURSUING KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA...
...BUT AS IT IS OUR DUTY, WE WILL GO A--
MASTER ICHINOMIYA AND THE BUGS?!

crunch
AUGH! IT GOT THROUGH!
陣 JIN
列 RETSU
在 ZAI
前 ZEN
臨 RIN
兵 PYOU
闘 TOU
者 SHA
皆 KAI
shoom
shoom

HGCK ...!
THESE DEFINITELY AREN'T ORDINARY BUGS, IF THEY CAN CHEW THROUGH A KUJI...
OW!!
jangle
I now recite the Profound Perfection of Wisdom...
Heart Sutra...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
skree
ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE THE DEMON BUGS RELIGION?
skree
I THOUGHT SO
CONSIDERING THE SORT OF PERSON YOU ARE, MISTER ICHINOMIYA, I SUSPECTED YOU WOULD NOT ESCAPE WHILE LEAVING ANY YOUKAI BEHIND
CLEARLY...

WHAT ...?
YOU FAVOR NON-HUMAN CREATURES.
splut


HERE YOU GO. ISN'T THAT YUMMY?
drip...
WHAT ARE YOU ...?
slice

squish
EITHER YOU KILL THE DEMON BUGS...
squish
...?!
I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
squelch
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
squelch

badoom
OR ELSE THE DEMON BUGS WILL KILL YOU.
THEY COM-BINED ?!
OW...!
MIS-TER ICHI-NOMI-YA.
Gah!
grab

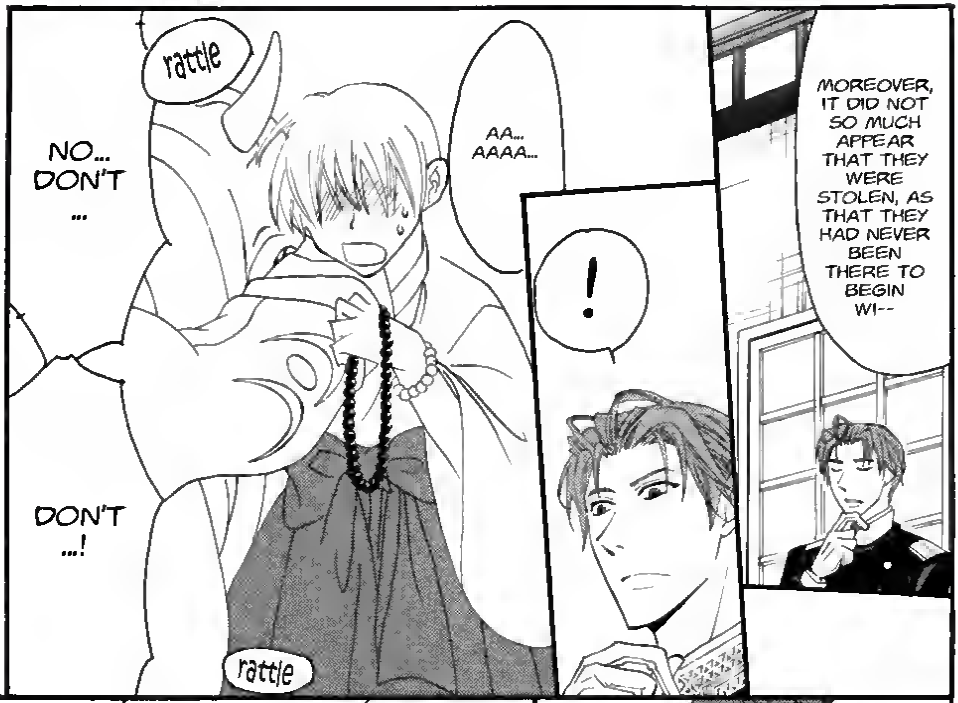
When Avalo--
--GCK!
Chomp
Jangle
The Profound Perfection of Wisdom Heart Sutra...
WHY NOT DO WHAT YOU DID TO IBARAGI DOUJI AND THE BUGS?
DO YOU REALLY NOT CARE IF YOU DIE?
Haah...
I MADE UP MY MIND.
Haah...
MISTER ICHINOMIYA...
Haah...

Haah...
I'M GOING TO SAVE... AND PROTECT... THESE LITTLE GUYS.
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO...!
AND JUST HOW WILL YOU MANAGE THAT IN YOUR CONDITION?

sigh
SO VERY STUB-BORN.
BY THE WAY, NOW THAT WE HAVE A MOMENT TO TALK, I'D LIKE TO ASK...
Haah!
...RRR RRGH!
Huff.
Crunch
munch
IN ITS CURRENT STATE, THE DEMON BUG THINKS ONLY OF EATING YOUR FLESH.
I INVESTI-GATED YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT CURSORILY.
YOUR MOTHER WAS A SHIRABYOSHI... AND THOUGH SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT PRIESTESS, SHE ALSO MADE HER LIVING AS A PROSTITUTE.
YOUR FATHER IS UN KNOWN.
WHAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S CAUSE OF DEATH?
twitch

YOU LOST YOUR MOTHER AS A CHILD, AND WERE ADOPTED BY HER SISTER.
YOUR INNATE SPIRITUAL POWER AND TALENT WERE DISCOVERED, AND YOU WENT TO A TEMPLE IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR ASCETIC TRAINING.
AS A YOUNG MAN, YOU ENTERED UNIVERSITY IN THE CAPITAL, AND AT THE SAME TIME BEGAN TO WORK AS A YOUKAI EXORCIST. AFTER GRADUATION YOU ALSO WORKED AS A FOLKLORIST.
I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN YOUR RECORDS EASILY ENOUGH, BUT ON YOUR MOTHER ...
Haah..
...
Huff!
...WE FOUND ALMOST NOTHING, ESPECIALLY REGARDING HER DEATH.
I'M THE SORT WHO PURSUES QUESTIONS TO THE BITTER END SO I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT...
...AND ASK YOU THIS ONE:
IT WAS REPORTED AS AN "ACCIDENTAL DEATH," BUT THERE ARE NO DETAILS OF ITS NATURE.
Huff.
WH-WHO GIVES A...
Haah!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK TERRIBLY PALE.

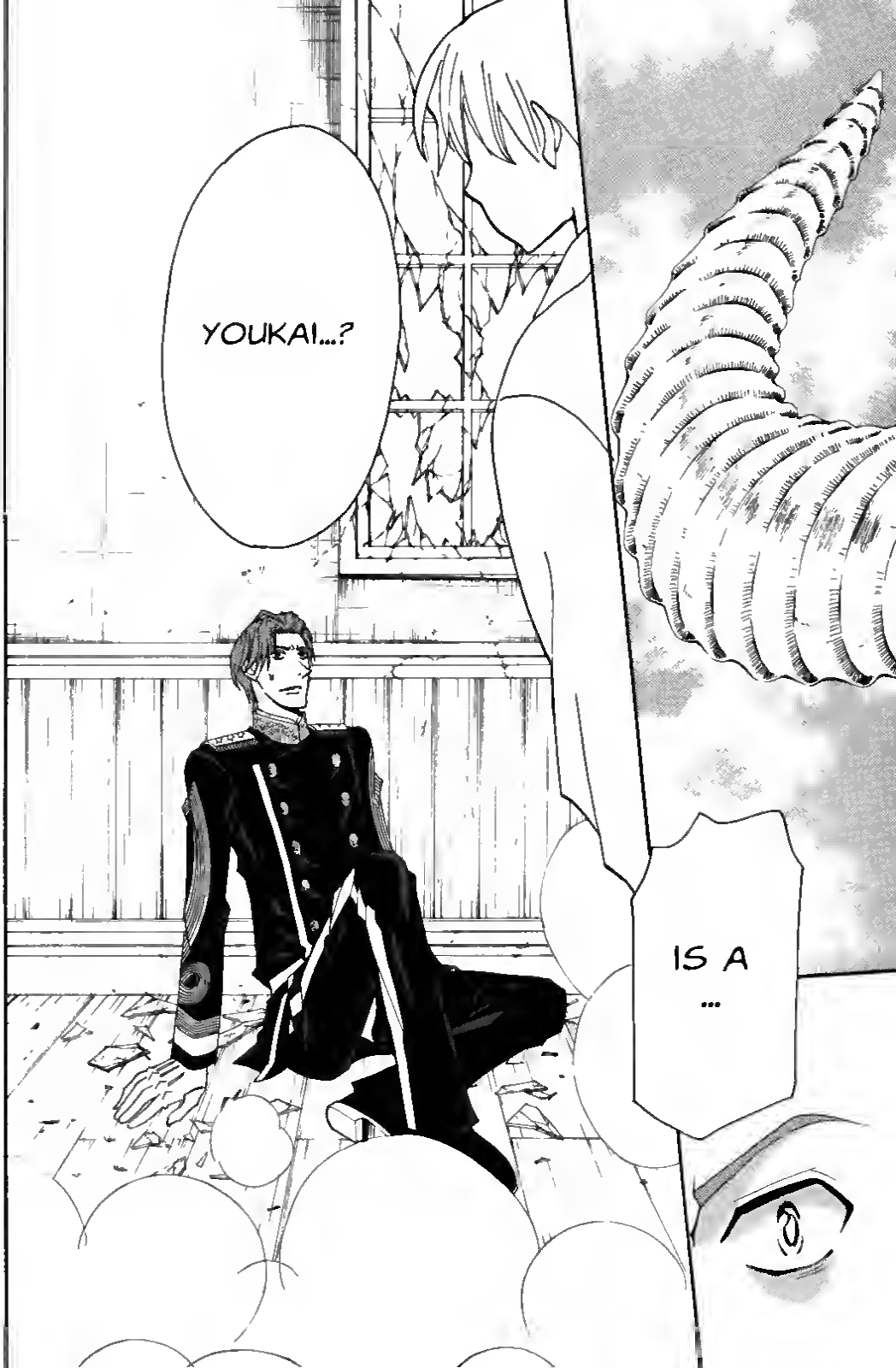
WHERE ARE YOUR MOTHER'S REMAINS?
BUT IN POINT OF FACT, AND DESPITE THE IMPROPRIETY, I DECIDED TO HAVE HER REMAINS EXAMINED.
THE BONE FRAGMENTS, AS WELL AS WHATEVER DAMAGE MAY HAVE OCCURRED TO THEM, CAN REVEAL MUCH ABOUT A PERSON'S CAUSE OF DEATH OR THE ILLNESSES THEY HAD DURING THEIR LIFETIME.
THAT IS THE THIRD RIDDLE PERTAINING TO YOU.
IT MAY HAVE NO DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE DEMON-EATING TENGU, OF COURSE.
HOWEVER, WHEN WE LOOKED INSIDE HER GRAVE...
YOUR MOTHER'S REMAINS...
...WERE MISSING.


rattle
NO... DON'T ...
AA... AAAA...
!
MOREOVER, IT DID NOT SO MUCH APPEAR THAT THEY WERE STOLEN, AS THAT THEY HAD NEVER BEEN THERE TO BEGIN WI--
DON'T ...!
rattle

EARLIER, KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA NEVER BUDGED, NO MATTER WHAT...
...BUT NOW HE'S SHAKING SO VISIBLY.
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA AND HIS MOTH--
GAAAAH!

spang
?!
boom
crunch
crunch

WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
...
MISTER... ICHINO-MIYA...


YOUKAI...?
IS A
...

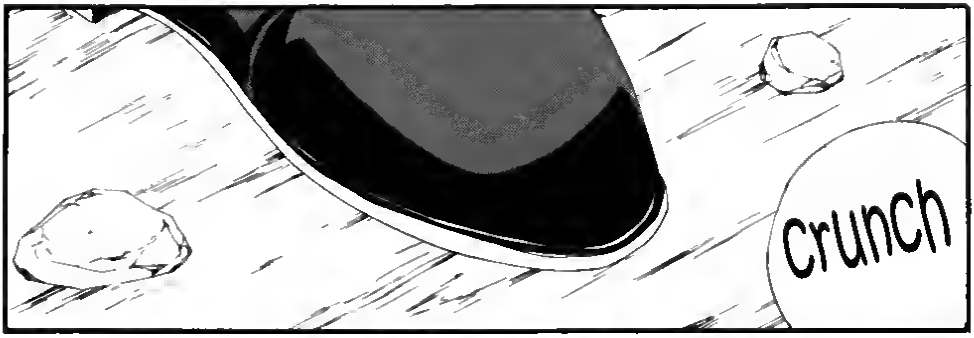
shff
I AM...
...NOT A YOUKAI!
boom
GRR...

WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE?
GRAAAH!!
flap
flap
DON'T JUST SETTLE INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE!
STOP POKING AROUND!
STOP CLEAN-ING!
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?
FOR YOU TO SHOW UP AT MY HOUSE ALL OF A SUDDEN... WHAT HAP-PENED?
SOME-THING BIG! KAN-CHAN GOT AR-RESTED!
REALLY?! WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME!
NOT ONLY THAT, SOME GUYS FROM THE SAME REGIMENT AS RAIKOU MINAMOTO CAME TO THE HOUSE TO MESS WITH ME.
"ABOUT TIME"?

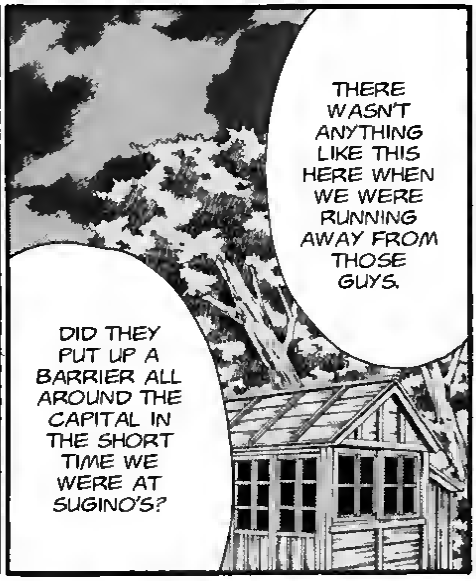
RAIKOU MINAMOTO DIDN'T COME, BUT IN HIS PLACE THEY BROUGHT THIS WEIRD KID. HE REALLY SEEMED LIKE TROUBLE TOO.
HMMM.
SO, WE NEED TO STAY HERE A WHILE UNTIL THOSE GUYS FROM THE MINAMOTO CLAN SETTLE DOWN
GIVE ME A BREAK! THIS IS OUR COZY LOVE NEST, JUST FOR ME AND MUU-CHAN!!
Get out of here!!
RIGHT, ♡ MUU-CHA--
WHY YOU...! GET YOUR MITTS OFF MY MUU-CHAN!
AWW... PEOPLE SHOULD BE FRIENDLY WHEN LIVING TOGETHER ♡ RIGHT?
Snatch
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! OR RATHER, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE. I'M OFF TO SAVE KAN-TAROU.
SURE THING, HAVE A GOOD TRIP!
WHY YOU!! I HAVEN'T AGREED TO ANY-THING YET!!
HARUKA-SAN...

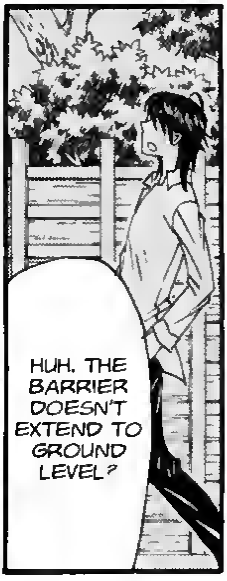
KAN-TAROU-SAN MAY BE AT TOKYO POLICE HEAD-QUAR-TERS
...
YOU MIGHT FIND SOME CLUES IF YOU TRY GOING THERE.
MUU!
MUU-SAN, YOU ARE SIMPLY ADORABLE. ♡ CARE TO TAKE A WALK?
Together...?
THERE'S NO SOY SAUCE OR MISO IN THIS HOUSE! GO BUY SOME, SUGINO-SAMA!!
DEMON EATER! WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING!
...
THE CAPITAL'S IN SIGHT...

!
A BARRIER ...?
...
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO BREAK THIS BARRIER BEFORE I CAN GET THROUGH.
PAIN IN THE ASS.
flick
fwoosh


crunch

THAT KID REALLY IS TROU-BLE.


THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE THIS HERE WHEN WE WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM THOSE GUYS.
DID THEY PUT UP A BARRIER ALL AROUND THE CAPITAL IN THE SHORT TIME WE WERE AT SUGINO'S?


HUH. THE BARRIER DOESN'T EXTEND TO GROUND LEVEL?

OH.

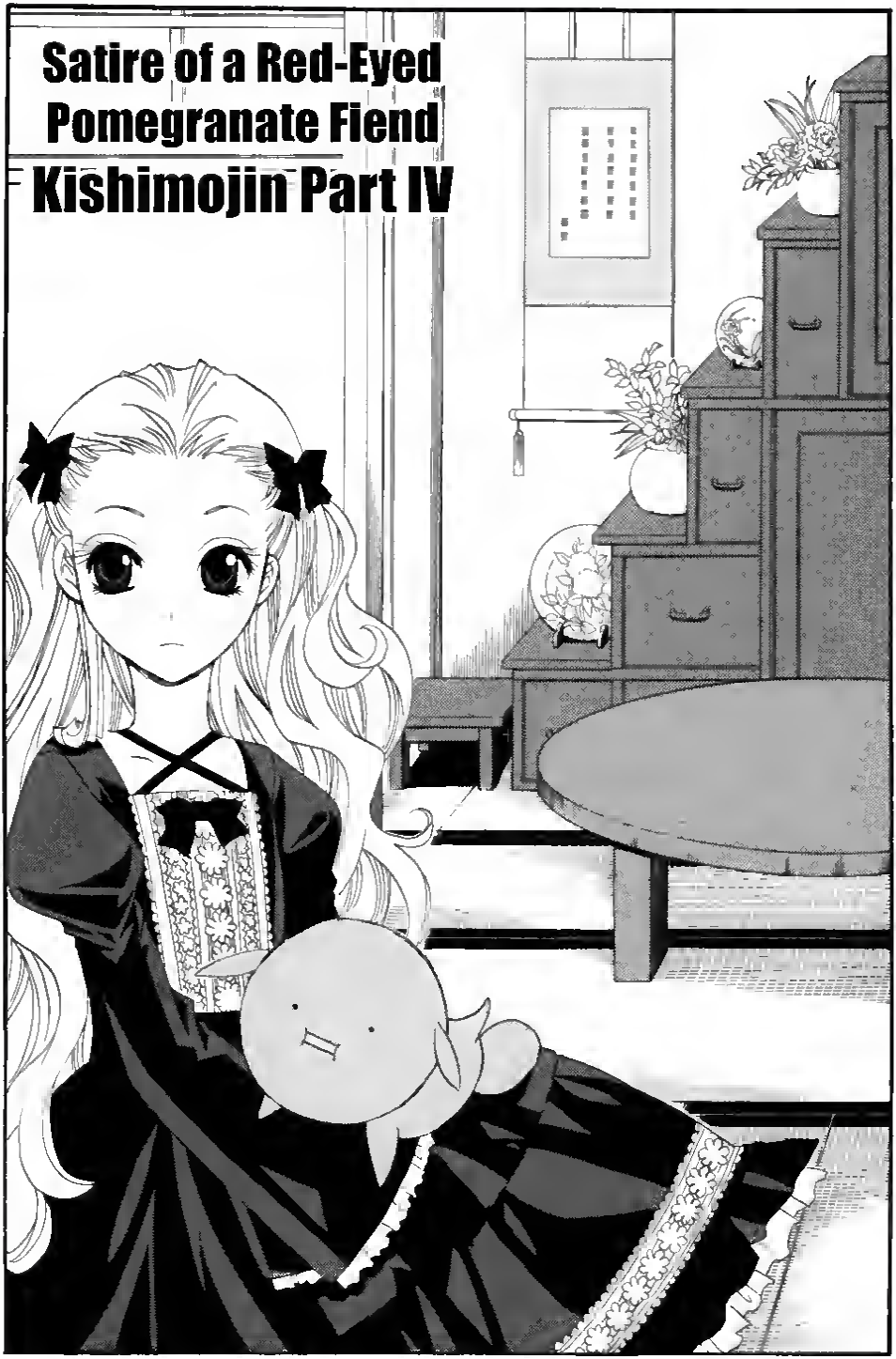
IT SUCKS TO TAKE SQUINTY'S ADVICE, BUT...
...I MIGHT TRY GOING TO THE POLICE HEAD-QUAR-TERS.

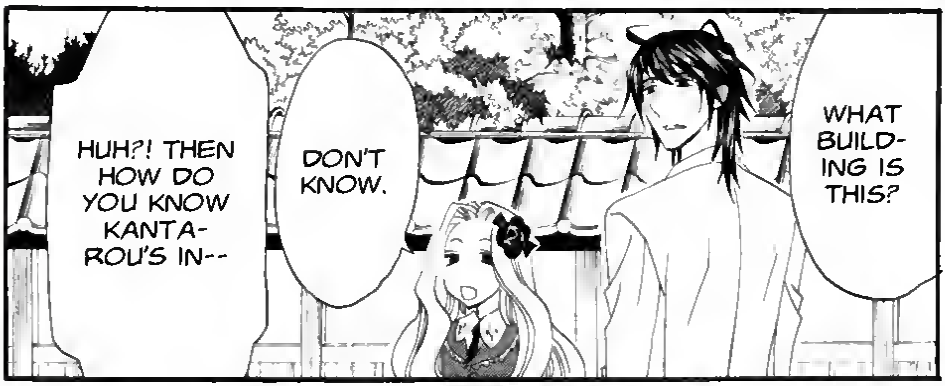
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS WAY.
HEY!
ISN'T THAT THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THE CAPITAL?
grasp
IN THERE.

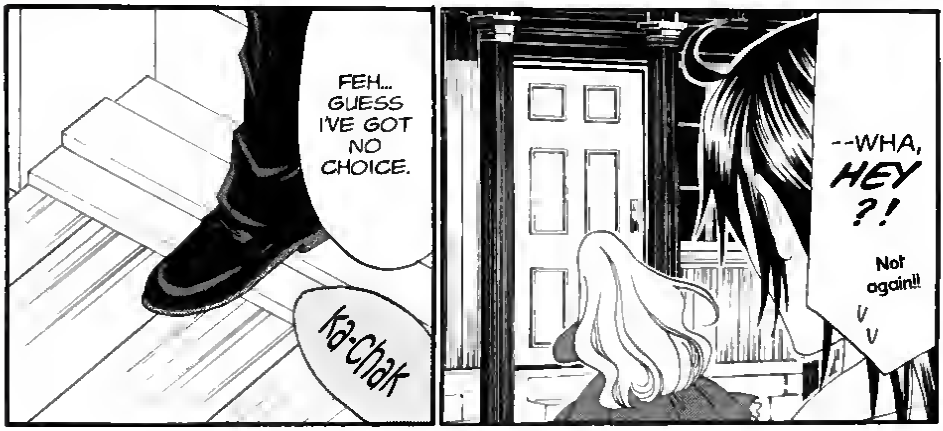
KANTAROU IS IN THERE.

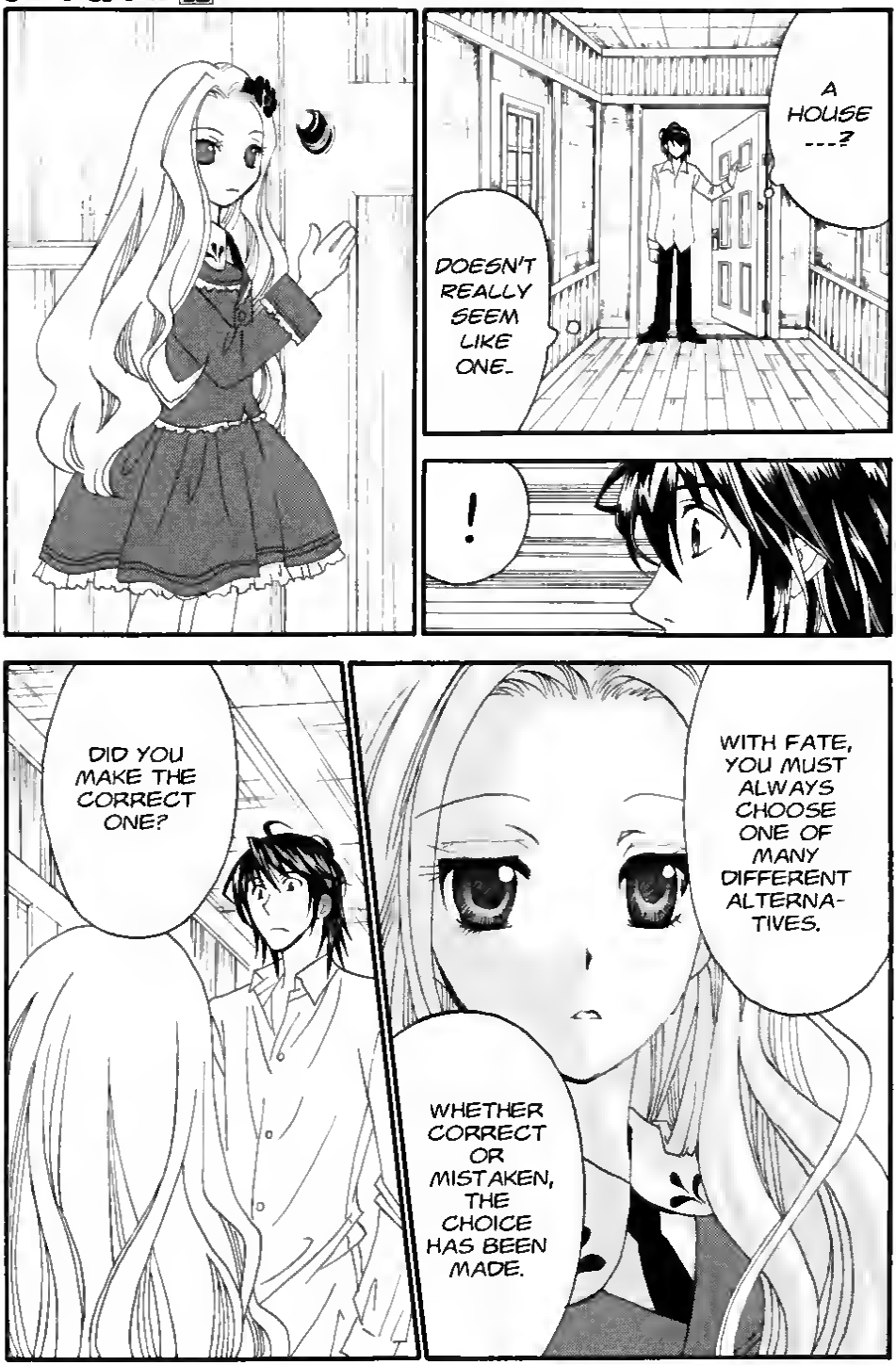
...WHAT?

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part IV




WHAT BUILDING IS THIS?
DON'T KNOW.
HUH?! THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW KANTAROU'S IN--

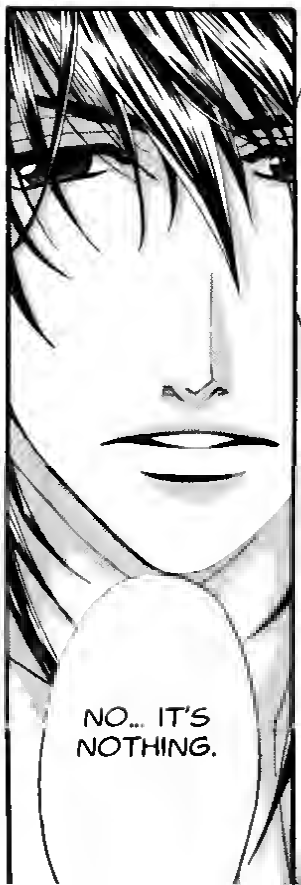

--WHA, HEY?!
Not again!!
FEH... GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
Ka-Chak


A HOUSE ---?
DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE ONE.
!
DID YOU MAKE THE CORRECT ONE?
WITH FATE, YOU MUST ALWAYS CHOOSE ONE OF MANY DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES.
WHETHER CORRECT OR MISTAKEN, THE CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE.

...I DON'T KNOW.
KANTAROU SUMMONED ME HERE.
HE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR.
ka-chak
BUT WHATEVER I CHOOSE TO DO...
...I'M STILL ME.

exhaustion
WHAT THE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT WAS MY LINE!
WHY'S HE SO CHEERFUL?

HARUKA!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!


NO... IT'S NOTHING.

WHAT? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
SORRY ABOUT THE FUSS, BUT I ALREADY ESCAPED HERE ON MY OWN!
...OH.
?

clang
HM? WHERE'D THE GIRL GO?
ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S GO HOME.
HUH?
NO...
MAYBE SHE LEFT AL-READY?
YOU, HUH?
rummage
tump
YOU'RE FAR TOO GOOD AT SHAPE-SHIFTING.
catch

When Momotaro and his companions invaded the castle...
?
Shudder
Shudder
The demon chief brought forth a multitude of his retainers...
Haah...
Huff
...to face them in battle...
HEY...
Now, return to life in this era...
The Youkai -- Onra!
Clap

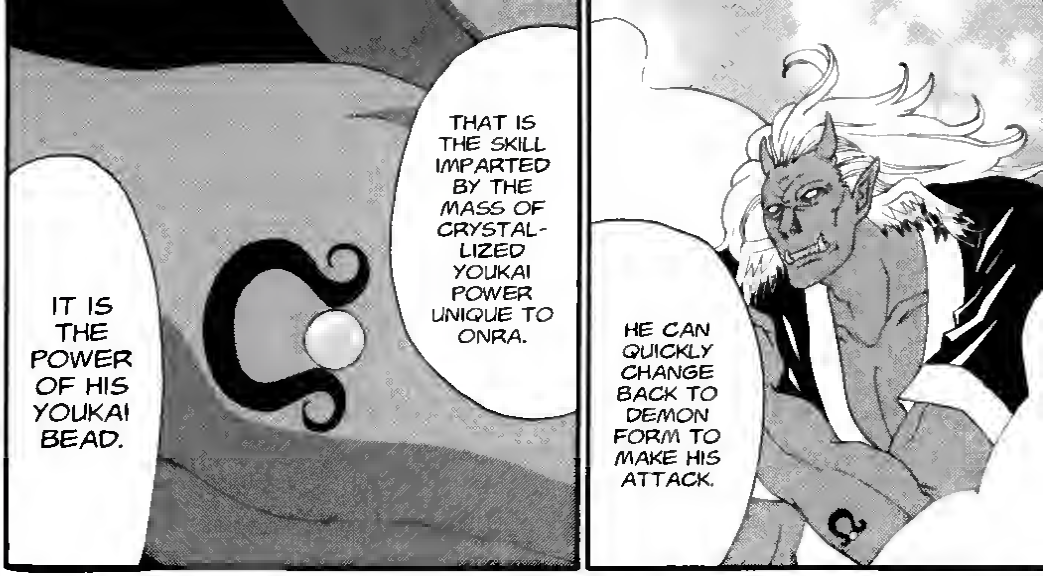
WHA?
slurgh
YOU'RE REALLY QUITE THE KID, YOU KNOW.
bwoosh
?!
fwish

I'VE NEVER SEEN A YOUKAI LIKE THIS.
WHAT COUNTRY IS IT FROM?
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE IT.
DO YOU KNOW OF THE FAIRY TALE, "MOMOTARO THE DEMON-KILLER"?
WHAT'S THAT?
seven seas

AS THE LEGEND GOES, LONG, LONG AGO, THE PEOPLE WERE BEING TORMENTED BY A WICKED DEMON.
A YOUNG MAN, BORN FROM A PEACH, WENT WITH HIS ANIMAL COMPANIONS TO EXTERMINATE THAT DEMON.
THE DEMON YOU SEE HERE, ONRA...
...IS THE DEMON FROM THAT FAIRY TALE.
BUT IF THE STORY'S TRUE, THEN THIS GUY...
CORRECT. HE NO LONGER EXISTS IN THIS WORLD HAVING BEEN EXTERMINATED BY MOMOTARO.
HOWEVER, I CAN USE THIS SHARD OF IBARAGI DOUJI'S BEAD WHICH HAS THE POWER TO "BRING LEGENDARY YOUKAI BACK TO LIFE."
...!
THE MINAMOTO CLAN RECOVERED A FEW FRAGMENTS OF THE BEAD LEFT BEHIND WHEN IBARAGI DOUJI WAS ANNIHILATED.
...
IS HE NOT A WORTHY OPPONENT FOR ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF?
YOU BASTARDS ...

I HOPE THAT THIS ANGER WILL LEAD YOU TO CHANGE TO YOUR "KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU" FORM.
DOES THAT MAKE YOU ANGRY?
YOU MINAMOTO BASTARDS ...
HOW FAR WILL YOU GO DEGRADING US YOUKAI BEFORE YOU'RE SATIS-FIED?!
SHUT UP!
Crackle
Crackle
THIS FORM IS MORE THAN ENOUGH...
COME, LIGHT-NING!!
Crack
swish
...TO SILENCE ONE DEMON AND A LITTLE KID!

!
HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED SUCH A HUGE TARGET ...?
whoosh
HE SLIPPED AWAY...
THAT WAS A SILLY THING TO TRY INDOORS.
!
I'M GUESSING YOU THOUGHT THAT SINCE ONRA WAS LARGE, HE WOULD BE EASY TO STRIKE WITH LIGHTNING...
...BUT YOU SEE, WHEN ONRA MOVES, HE CHANGES INTO THE FORM OF A PHEASANT OR A SALMON.
AND THEN...
shwaah

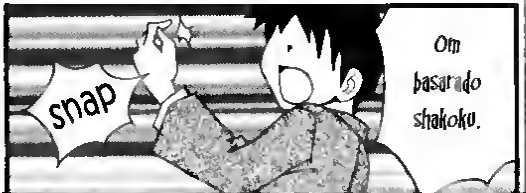

IT IS THE POWER OF HIS YOUKAI BEAD.
THAT IS THE SKILL IMPARTED BY THE MASS OF CRYSTAL-LIZED YOUKAI POWER UNIQUE TO ONRA.
HE CAN QUICKLY CHANGE BACK TO DEMON FORM TO MAKE HIS ATTACK.

...
WERE YOU NOT AWARE OF YOUR OWN BEAD?
YOU POSSESS SUCH A MASS YOURSELF, DEMON-EATING TENGU.

在 ZAI
皆 KAI
前 ZEN!
陣 JIN
! 列 RETSU
fwoom

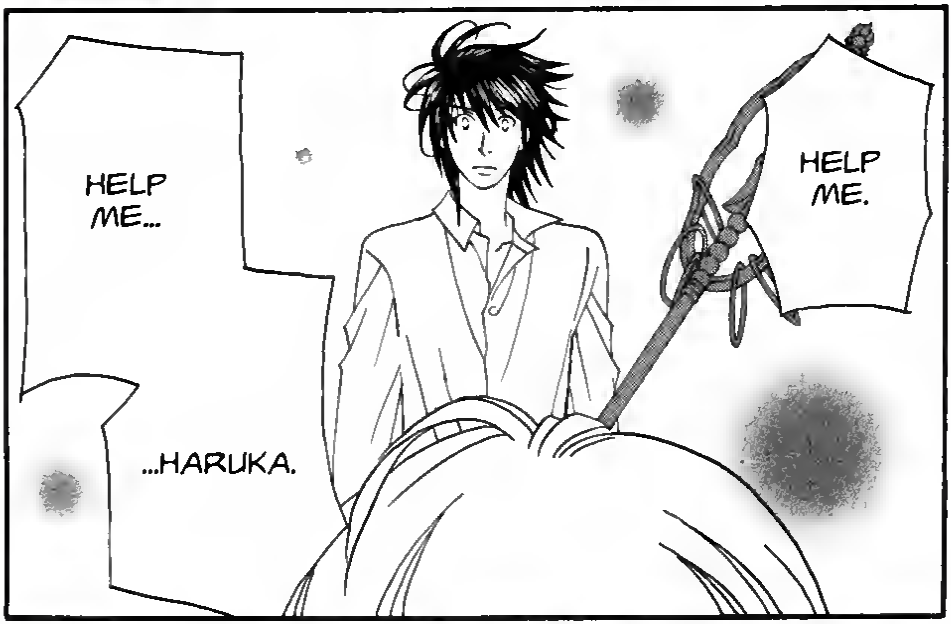
TOU 闘 RIN 臨
SHA 者 PYOU 兵

I AM GREATLY INTERESTED IN YOUR YOUKAI BEAD.
WOULD YOU LET ME SEE IT?
lunge


snap
Om basarado shakoku.

grip
swish
!
WHY DO YOU ATTACK ME AND NOT ONRA...?
IT'S EASIER TO FIGHT YOU INSTEAD OF THAT BLOCK-HEAD.
SO I SEE.
BUT HAS THAT REALLY GIVEN YOU THE AD-VANTAGE?

KAN-TAROU...
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
...
...AH, I SEE.


HELP ME...
...HARUKA.
HELP ME.

sting

THANK YOU--
HEY.
THE BRACELET YOU WEAR ON THIS WRIST...
WHERE IS IT?
slash
HUH?

JEEZ...
IT'S NO FUN CUTTING UP SOMEONE YOU KNOW EVEN WHEN IT'S JUST AN EFFIGY.
YOU DID WELL TO RECOGNIZE THE FAKE.
IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE TIME I'VE WASTED BEING AROUND MY IDIOT MASTER.
BESIDES, IF YOU REALLY WANT MY BEAD IN PERFECT CONDI-TION...
...THEN YOU WOULDN'T DARE KILL KANTA-ROU.
YOUR MISTAKE WAS THAT WHEN THE FAKE CALLED OUT MY NAME, I SENSED NO EMOTION AT ALL.
IT IS TRUE THAT WE CANNOT TAKE MISTER KANTA-ROU'S LIFE
IF A YOUKAI'S MASTER DIES WITH THE MASTER AND SERVANT CONTRACT STILL INTACT, THEN THE YOU-KAI'S POWER WILL REMAIN SEALED.
HOW-EVER...

THERE IS STILL ONE ISSUE LEFT TO CONSIDER.
grab
yank
A DEMON LIKE THIS WON'T BE ANY--

badum
badum
badum
WHAT IS THIS?
badum
THIS HEART-BEAT ---
...GCK!
badum

IT'S SO LOUD ---

HUH?
WHY DO I---
bwoosh

prick

SUDDENLY WANT TO EAT THIS GUY?!

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part V

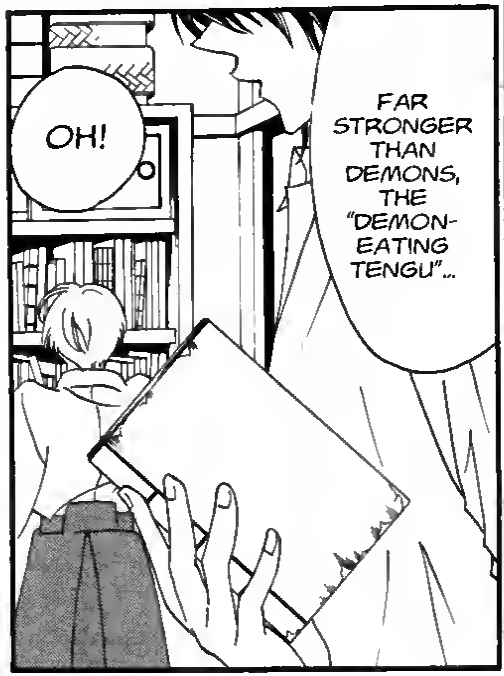
HAAA-
RUKAAA...!
I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
WHAT'RE YOU YAPPING ABOUT?

...I DON'T WANNA.
HELP ME LOOK!
DAMN YOU!!
DON'T INVOKE MY NAME SO WASTE-FULLY!
point
HARUKA !!
I WANT YOU TO HELP WITH MY SEARCH!!
HMM?
WAIT.
AREN'T YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR?
SURE...
Haru
Kan
OKAY, I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT SIDE...
...AND YOU SEARCH THE LEFT SIDE, HARUKA.

OH, IT'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT ...
THE HECK?
WHAT'S THIS...?
?
BE MORE SPECIFIC...!
flump
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO GO ON.

IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
NAH, BUT IT BOTHERED ME THAT I COULDN'T FIND IT BEFORE.
WOW, THANKS HARUKA!

...


OH!
FAR STRONGER THAN DEMONS, THE "DEMON-EATING TENGU"..

THERE YOU ARE!
I WAS LOOK-ING FOR YOU!
PLUCK
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
DON'T TELL ME YOU WANNA EAT THIS LITTLE GUY?!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME IF YOU HARM ANY YOUKAI!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HARUKA?
stare...
OH!
IT'S JUST...

I LIKE THE WAY I'M LIVING NOW.
I DON'T WANT A DEMON BADLY ENOUGH TO RUIN THAT.
HAVEN'T I MET YOU SOME-WHERE BEFO--
WHAAAAT? WHY THE OLD PICKUP LINE?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT !!
BUT DIDN'T YOU GET YOUR FULL POWERS BACK AFTER WE WERE ABLE TO CANCEL YOUR CONTRACT WITH LADY FUJI?
DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT DEMONS NOW?
NO, I DON'T.
REALLY?

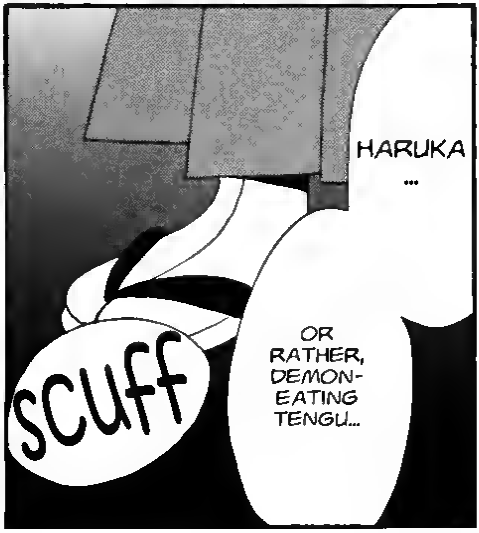
...HRM...
I KNOW I'VE SEEN THIS DEMON SOME-WHERE...
...WHAT? WHY?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT A TASTE?
badum
?!
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
WAIT, IT'S THE LITTLE DEMON FROM THAT SIDE-SHOW!!

IT'S NOT HOW I DO THINGS. I WAS OSTRACIZED BECAUSE OF MY ABILITIES WHEN I WAS YOUNG, YOU KNOW.
WHEN MY HUMAN FRIENDS LEFT ME, I TURNED TO YOUKAI FOR COMPANY.
OF... OF COURSE YOU ARE.
OF COURSE WE'RE... FRIENDS.
badum
THE MEMORIES... THEY KEEP COMING...
GUESS I FEEL MUCH THE SAME WAY.
HUNH...
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?
badum
"COULD YOU STILL SAY THAT WITH A DEMON RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?"

"KANTAROU WOULD STOP ME."

WHY AM I SO...
URGH!

THERE IS ONE MORE THING THAT I DESIRE.
shwoo

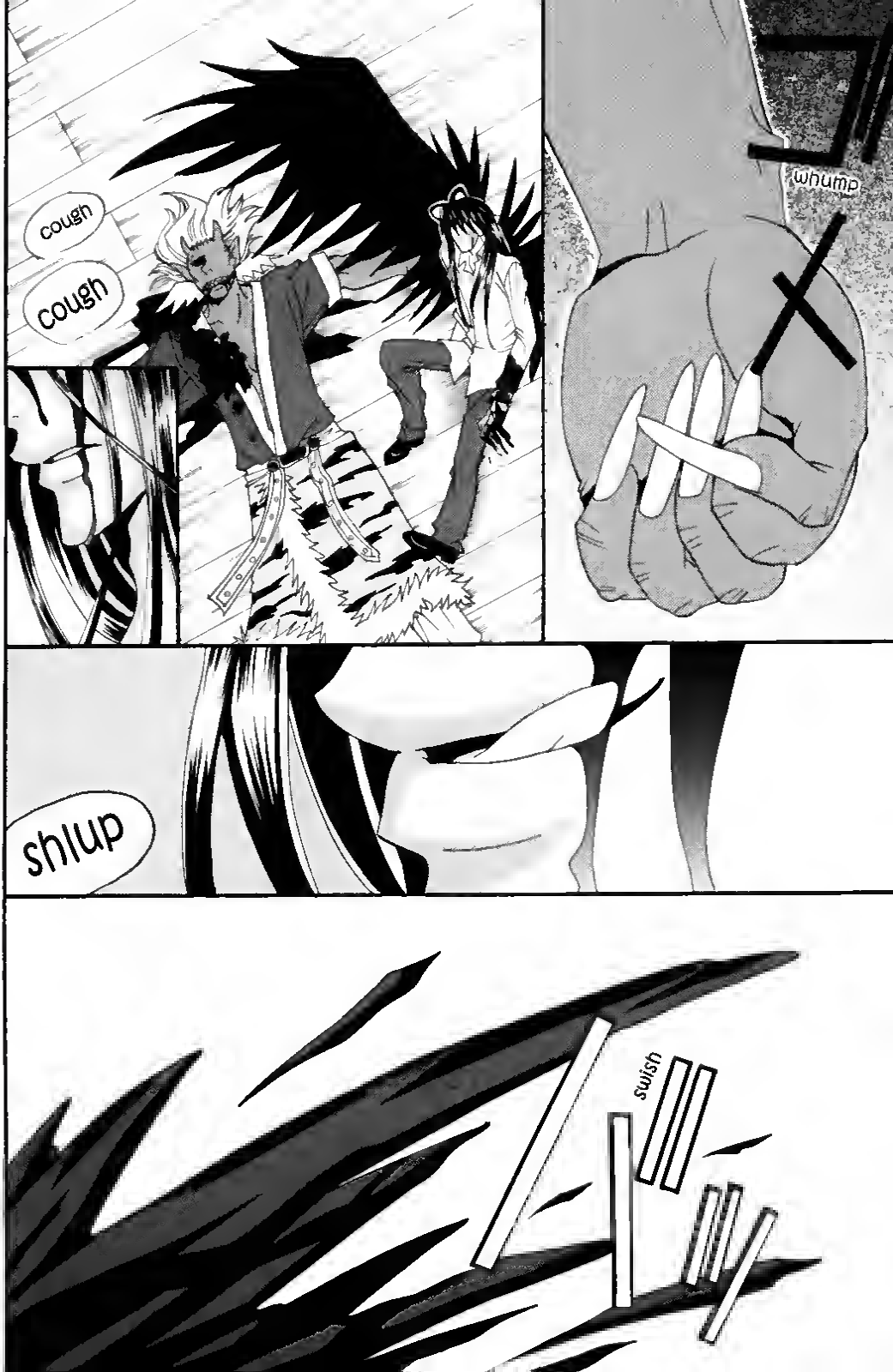

HARUKA ...
OR RATHER, DEMON-EATING TENGU...
SCUFF

?!
AND THAT IS YOUR INSTINCT.
THAT WAS AN ILLU-SION?
WHAT A STUBBORN YOUKAI YOU ARE
FOR NOW...
IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER IF YOU SIMPLY GAVE IN TO YOUR INSTINCT.
Huff.
Haah.

...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THIS CRAVING UNDER CONTROL..
dash
IF I CAN JUST GET OUT OF HERE...
--- WITHOUT TOUCHING THAT DEMON ---
!!
shwoo
gasp
MIGRATING DOORS? WHAT KIND OF BUILDING IS THIS?
NOW THE DOOR'S OVER THERE ?!
whoosh
WHA ...?

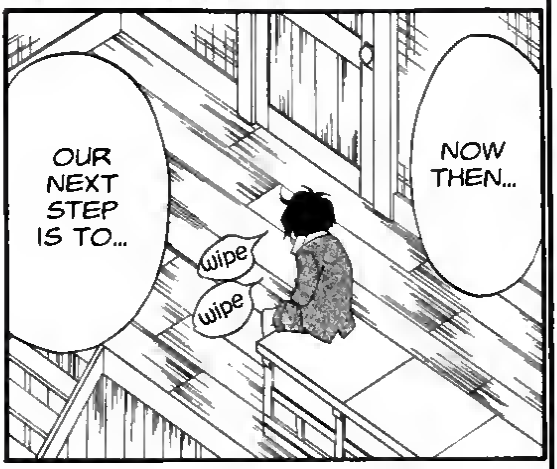
GRK...
uham
I THOUGHT THAT FROM NOW ON...
badum
badum
badum
...I COULD MANAGE SOMEHOW, AS LONG AS I HAD KANTAROU.
I WAS CARE-LESS.
scrape

badum
---FOR THE TIMES WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND TO TELL ME.
I WISH I'D ASKED HIM WHAT I SHOULD DO---

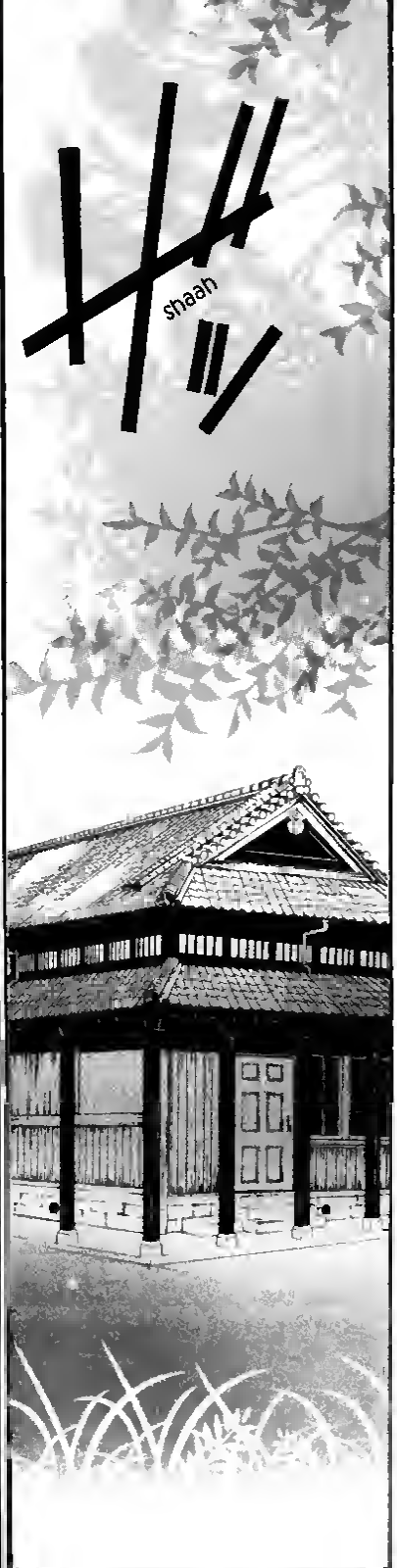

cough
cough
whump
shlup
swish

squelch
splrch
AND NOW, WITH THIS...

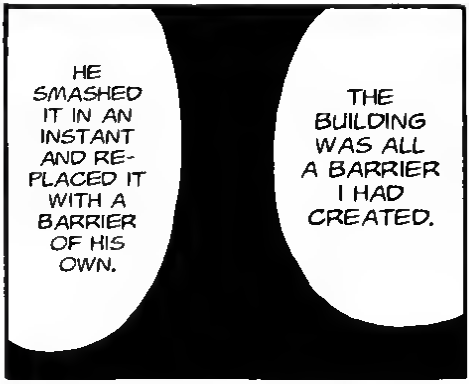
YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK...
...TO BEING KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA'S FRIEND.


NOW THEN...
OUR NEXT STEP IS TO...
wipe
wipe

MISTER HARUKA? YOU DONE EATING?

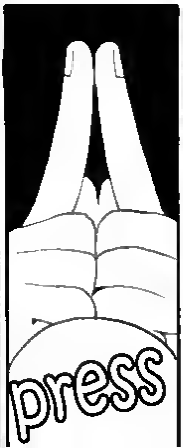

shaah

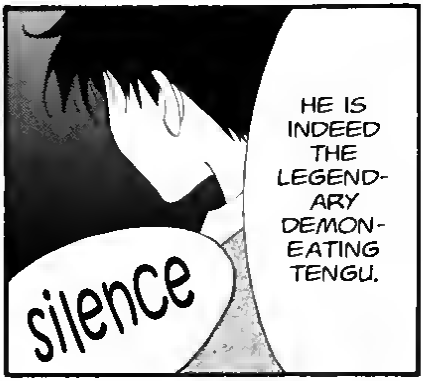
whoom
?!


HE SMASHED IT IN AN INSTANT AND RE-PLACED IT WITH A BARRIER OF HIS OWN.
THE BUILDING WAS ALL A BARRIER I HAD CREATED.

... AMAZING ...

...oh my command...
Avert the hundred demons, prevent disaster and misfortune


press


silence
HE IS INDEED THE LEGEND-ARY DEMON-EATING TENGU.

MY SPELLS DON'T WORK EITHER.
RIGHT?
LEFT?
ABOVE?
BELOW?
WHAT DIRECTION WILL HE ATTACK FROM?
JUST WHERE WILL--
loom

!!
BEHIND YOU.
HUH...?
groooaah

ぱき
crack
WHOOPS!

Heave ho!
AREN'T YOU...
shove
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T GO AROUND TEASING CHILDREN LIKE THAT.

SSSSSS
SSSS

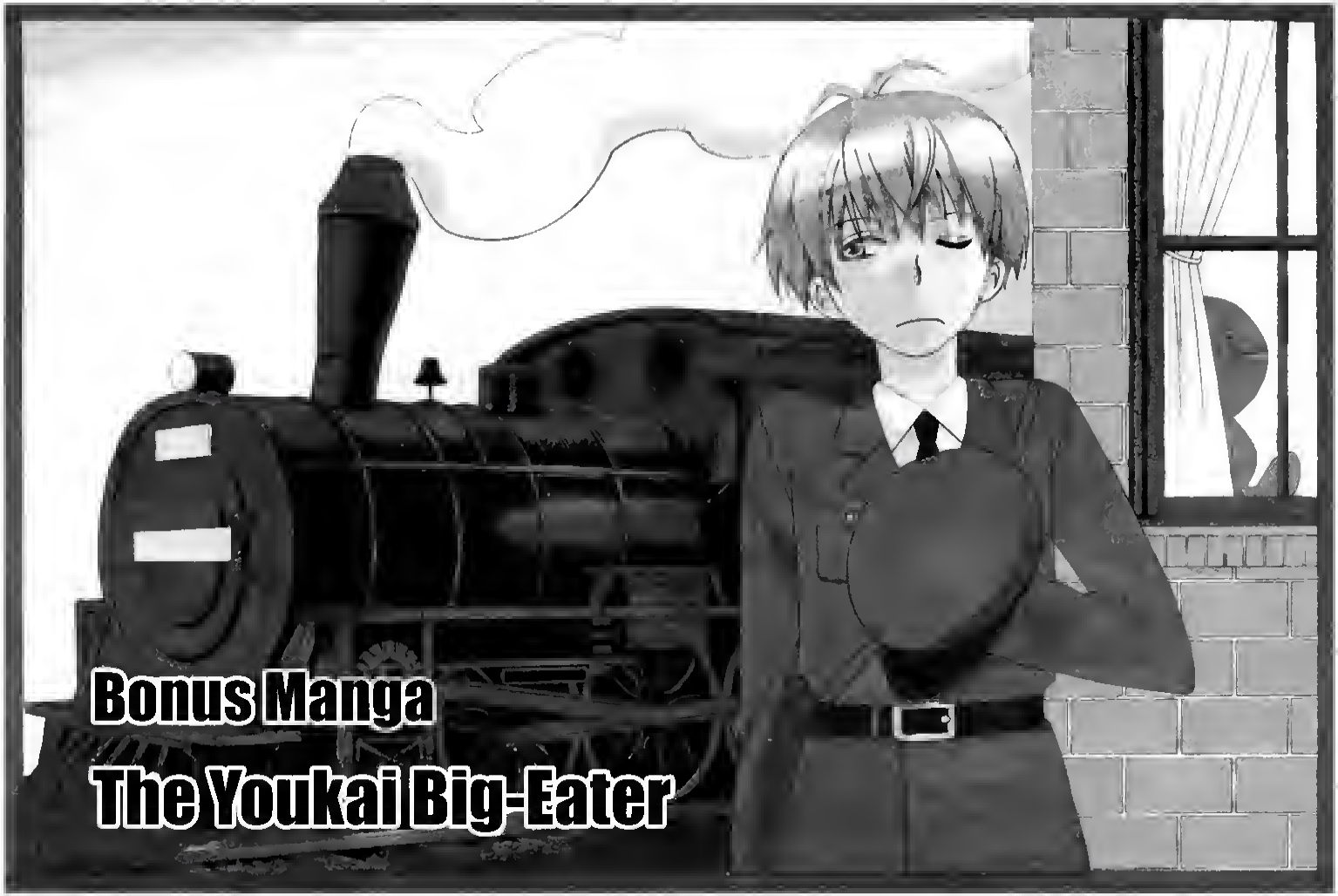
WELL WELL WELL!
SSSLUCK

I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A FINE "HOW DO YOU DO"...
... KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU-SAN.
HOW THE HELL DID YOU CUT THROUGH MY BARRIER ...?
NO NO, FIRST THINGS FIRST!
I MUST SAY HOW GLAD I AM THAT YOU ARE BACK TO NORMAL!
OH, BUT...
HERE IS THE ONE WHO MOST WISHED FOR THIS OUT-COME...
shff

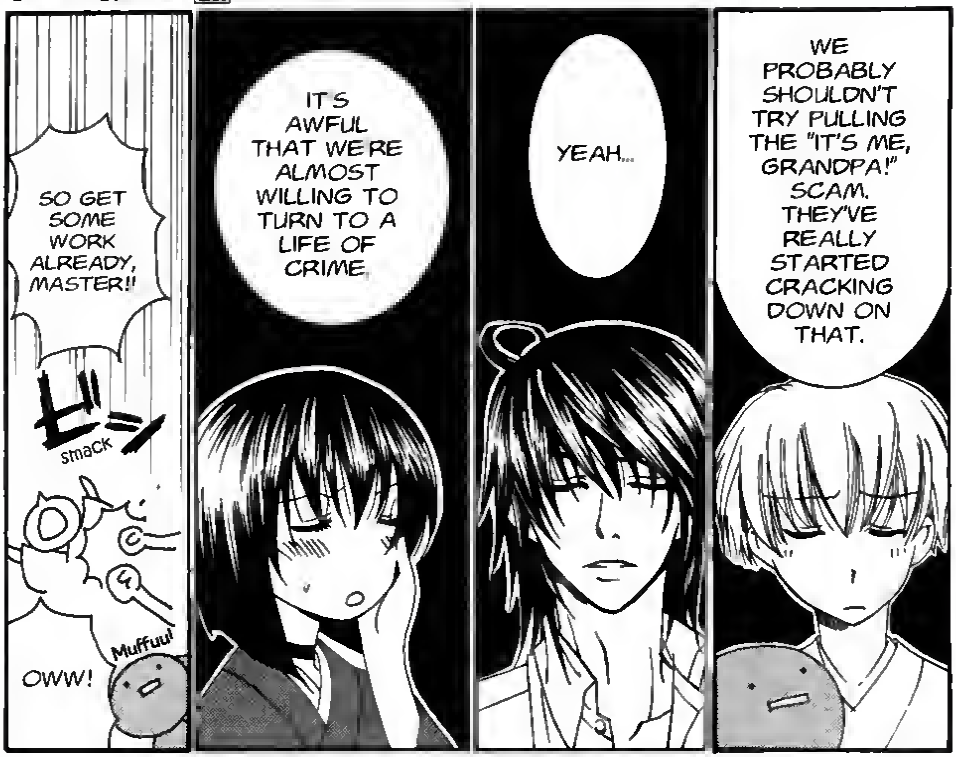
MAJOR GENERAL RAIKOU MINAMOTO.

HMM...
THAT'S A NICE MASK YOU HAVE THERE.
SO, GOTTEN A BIT MORE HANDSOME, HAVE YOU?
AT LAST...
HEE HEE... EATING A DEMON HAS GREATLY INCREASED YOUR YOUKAI POWERS.

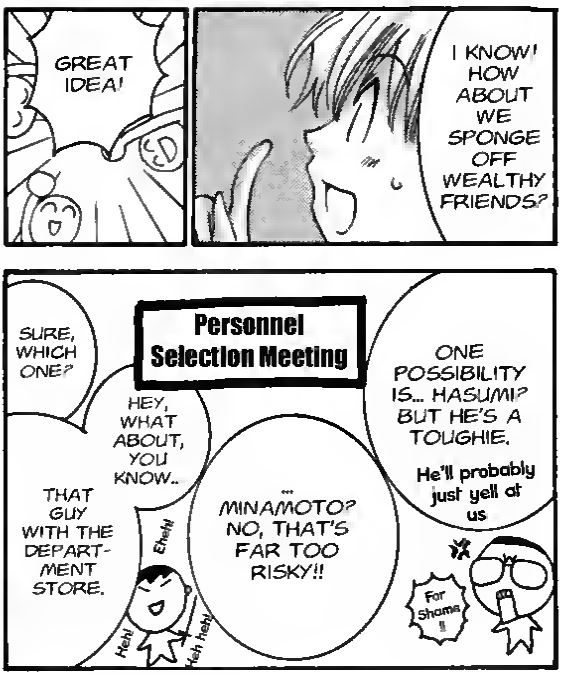
AT LAST, I GET TO FULFILL MY DREAMS...
...OF TAKING OUT THE ONLY ONE MY ANCES-TORS COULD NOT.
IT'S BEEN MY LIFE-LONG WISH TO KILL YOU...
...DEMON-EATING TENGU...


Bonus Manga
The Youkai Big-Eater

swisssshh
WHEN DID I LAST TASTE WHITE RICE, ANYWAY...?
I'M STARV-ING...
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO PROVIDE MUU-CHAN. EVEN AFTER YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO VISIT.


SO GET SOME WORK ALREADY, MASTER!!
smack
OWW!
Muffuu!
IT'S AWFUL THAT WE'RE ALMOST WILLING TO TURN TO A LIFE OF CRIME.
YEAH...
WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T TRY PULLING THE "IT'S ME, GRANDPA!" SCAM. THEY'VE REALLY STARTED CRACKING DOWN ON THAT.

HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?


GREAT IDEA!
I KNOW! HOW ABOUT WE SPONGE OFF WEALTHY FRIENDS?
Personnel Selection Meeting
SURE, WHICH ONE?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT, YOU KNOW..
THAT GUY WITH THE DEPART-MENT STORE.
Ehehl
Hehl
Heh heh!
... MINAMOTO? NO, THAT'S FAR TOO RISKY!!
ONE POSSIBILITY IS... HASUMI? BUT HE'S A TOUGHIE.
He'll probably just yell at us
For Shame !!

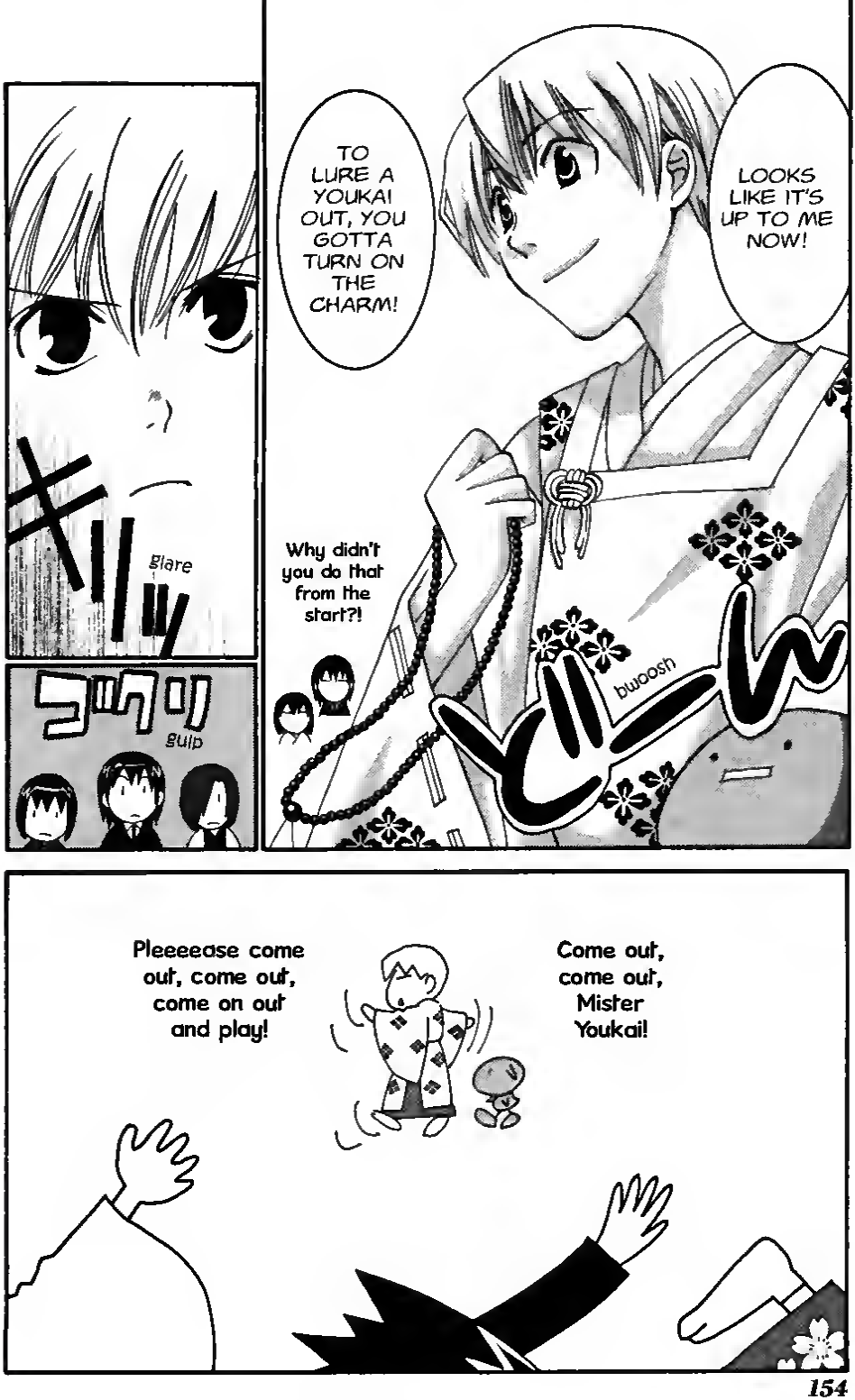
SORRY THAT I HAVEN'T CALLED ON YOU IN SOME TIME, MISTER KANTA-ROU.
MISTER ITOU!!
THAT'S FINE, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU!
Er, why?

Muuu.
SER-VICES?! YOU HAVE A JOB FOR ME?!
I HAVE COME TO REQUEST THE SERVICES OF YOUR SECONDARY BUSINESS.
OOOH!
A living god.
...CEL... HAS THAT HINT OF...
...EB-RITY!
HEY, ISN'T HE THE RENOWNED PAINTER WHO'S ALSO THE SON OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE OWNER..?!
HMMM, AND STEALING FOOD... HOW NI--
UH, I MEAN, HOW NAUGHTY!
IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A RODENT PROBLEM. A SERVANT TOLD ME THAT THEY SAW A "SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING SHADOW."
THAT DOES SOUND LIKE A YOUKAI.
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT I HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. ALL OF OUR FOOD HAS BEEN DISAP-PEARING.
Ichinomiya Vision.

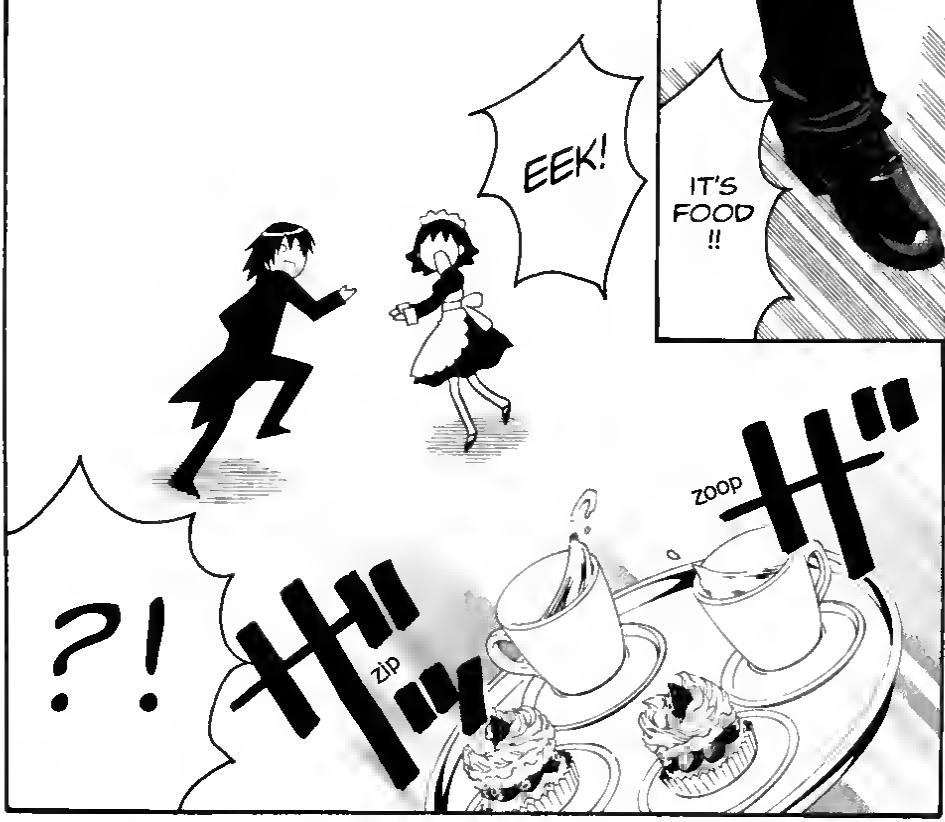
WOW...
AH, HERE WE ARE!
MUU...
BUT I WONDER, WHY WOULD SUGINO-SAMA HAVE GONE SOMEWHERE WITHOUT YOU, MUU-CHAN?
MUU MUU.
SORRY THAT WE'RE GOING OUT ON A JOB DURING YOUR VISIT, MUU-CHAN.
Hmm.
SO IT'S A YOUKAI THAT HIDES ITSELF, HUH? NOW WHERE COULD IT BE...?
IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.
I CLEAN AND CLEAN, AND NOW IT'S MESSY AGAIN!
GUESS WE'LL START BY LURING IT OUT.
FIRST ATTEMPT: HARUKA!
Me?

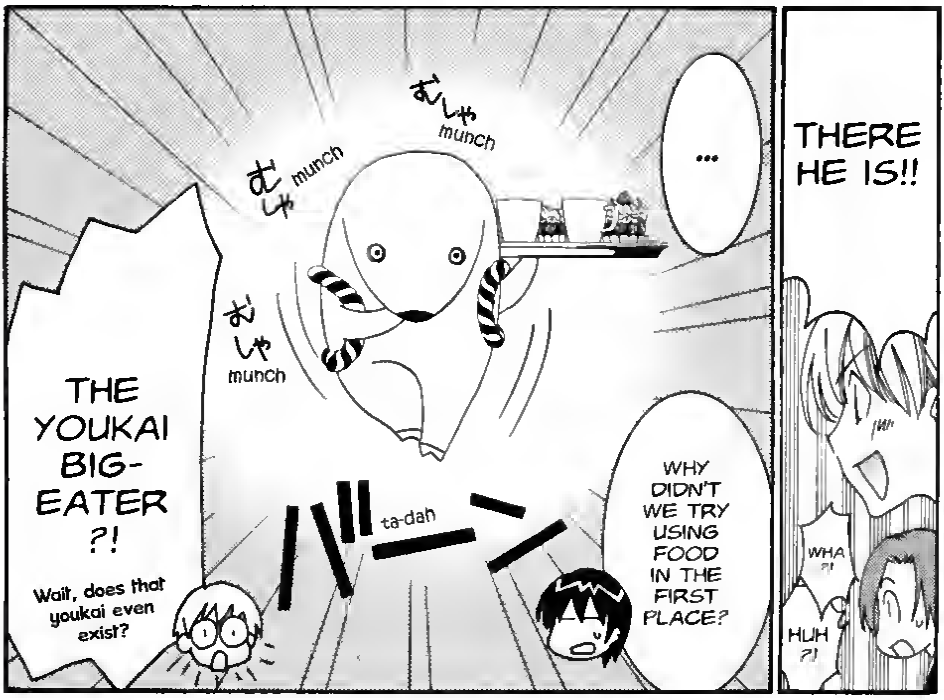
Gigolo Mode Activated
OHH! MY LONELY HEART...!
SHOW ME YOUR PRECIOUS EYES, THOSE HIDDEN LIGHTS LIKE TWINKLING STARS.
IT SHATTERS LIKE GLASS.
DRINK TO ME WITH THINE EYES, AND I WILL DINE, OH BELOVED FOOOOOD!
WHY MUST I BE BOUND TO A MAN WHO EARNS NOTHING? JUST GIVE ME A BREAK!
twitch
twitch
WHY MUST WE BE REDUCED TO SIPPING WATER AS THE DRY LEAVES SCATTER ON THE WIND?!
WHY, WHY, WHY?!!
A POOR MAN COULD AT LEAST WORK HARD LIKE THE POOR!
Auuuugh! Seriously, why!! Why must I?! Let's see how you like it for a change!
HARUKA, CALM DOWN!!
GET A GRIP, HARUKA-CHAN!!

Second Wave: Youko-chan
MASTER? WHERE ARE YOU? PLEASE DON'T TEASE YOUKO, COME ON OUT!
OH, HELLO MASTER!
WELCOME HOME!
dead silence
YOUKO WILL BE SAD WITHOUT MASTER'S
I ADMIT, I NEVER COULD SEE MYSELF BEHAVING IN THIS FASHION, BUT... BUT I...
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I CAN'T PLAY THIS TYPE OF CHARACTER?
Death to "moë" I say!!
Waaah!!
YOUKO-CHAN, CALM DOWN!!
GET A GRIP, YOUKO!!


TO LURE A YOUKAI OUT, YOU GOTTA TURN ON THE CHARM!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME NOW!
Why didn't you do that from the start?!
bwoosh
glare
gulp
Pleeeease come out, come out, come on out and play!
Come out, come out, Mister Youkai!

Come on out!
'kay?
Come and play
Come on out!
'kay?
Come on out!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL STANDING THERE FOR?! DANCE WITH ME!!
Mythology Reference
...FOR LURING OUT SOMEBODY WHO'S HIDING!
IN JAPAN, DANCE IS THE NUMBER-ONE TIME-HONORED TRADITION...
GET THAT FOOD!
Hi ho!
GRAB YOUR ACCOUNT BOOK, HOLD IT TIGHT! GET THAT FOOD!
Hey ho!
VERY HIGH!
OUR ENGEL'S COEFFICIENT IS VERY HIGH!
shock
They're dancing...
ER...
EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT... IT'S TIME FOR TEA...


EEK!
IT'S FOOD !!
dash
zoop
?!
zip

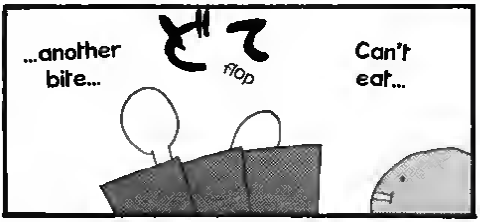

THERE HE IS!!
WHA?!
HUH?!
...
むしゃ munch
むしゃ munch
むしゃ munch
WHY DIDN'T WE TRY USING FOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE?
ta-dah
THE YOUKAI BIG-EATER ?!
Wait, does that youkai even exist?

'CAUSE HE'S WEALTHY AND HAS TONS OF FOOD! DUH!
munch
munch
munch
I WISH I COULD BE CAREFREE LIKE YOU!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING MISCHIEF IN ITOU'S HOUSE?
WOW! WHICH WAY IS THE YOUKAI?!
Ooh! Ooh!
AH RIGHT, ITOU... YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO SEE THEM
Ichinomiya Gang MAXIMUM Spirit
AREN'T YOU AGREEING KINDA FAST?
OH!
AN EATING CONTEST ?!
'KAY, HOW 'BOUT THIS? YOU BEAT ME AT AN EATING CONTEST, AND I'M OUTTA HERE!
BUT YOU'RE MAKING TROUBLE, SO COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?
Eating Contest: Start!!
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO!!
UH.. SURE, IF THAT WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM ...
CAN WE, ITOU? OL' BUDDY AND PAL?!

I MOBILIZED ALL OF MY FAMILY'S CHEFS, PATISSIERS AND COOKS FOR THIS MAJOR EVENT!!
MISTER KANTAROU'S TEAM VERSUS MISTER BIG-EATER!
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH DOING THIS THREE AGAINST ONE?
'COURSE! AFTER ALL, I'M "BIG-EATER"!

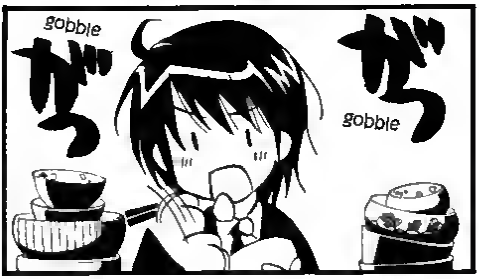
chomp
chomp
chomp

scarf
scarf


...another bite...
flop
Can't eat...

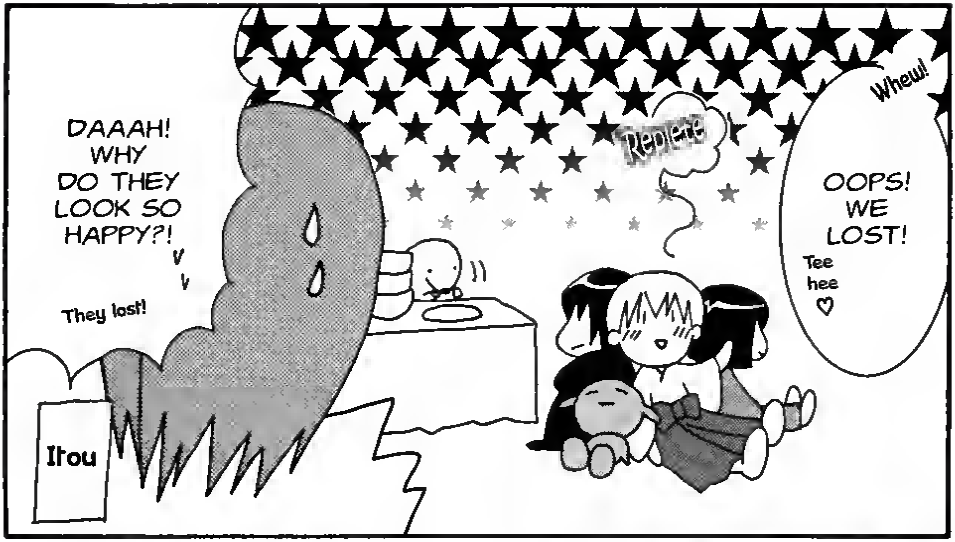
chomp
chomp
chomp

chew
chew

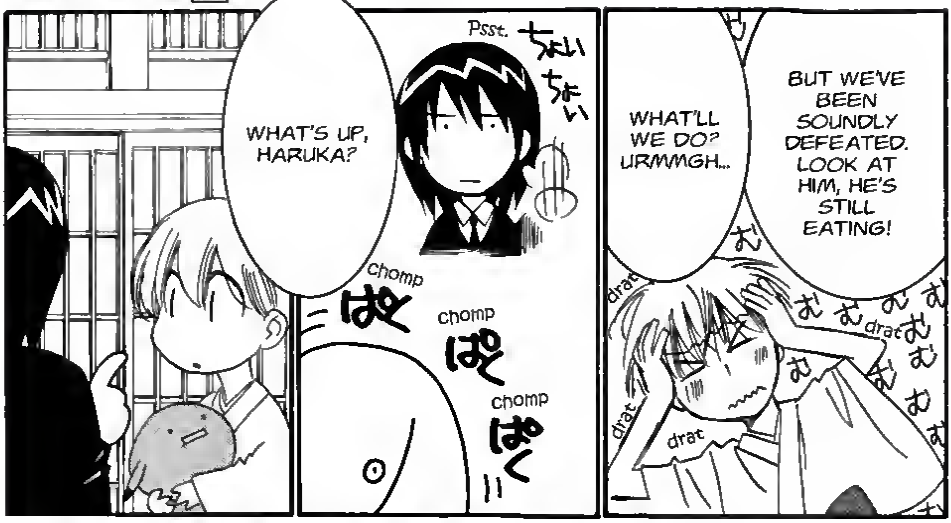

gobble
gobble

chomp
chomp
chomp

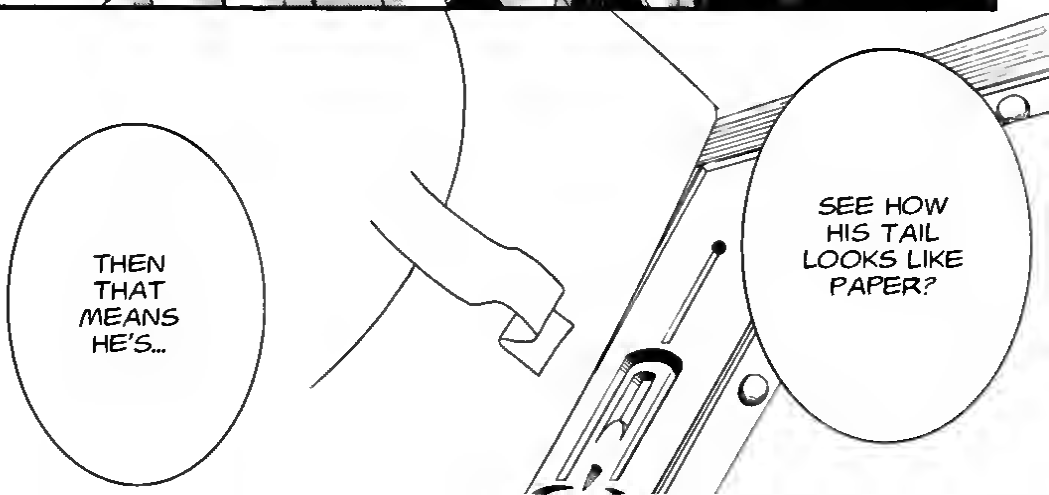
gob...
gobble...


DAAAH! WHY DO THEY LOOK SO HAPPY?!
They lost!
Irou
Replay
Whew!
OOPS! WE LOST!
Tee hee ♡

That was careless.
OH RIGHT, WE DO STILL NEED TO GET PAID.
BUT I'M TIIIRED!
WHAA ...?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW OF A FULL BELLY!
WE STILL HAVE A TOMORROW, A FUTURE, AHEAD OF US!!
HANG ON A MINUTE!
I CAN'T PAY YOU UNLESS YOU EXORCISE IT AS REQUESTED!


WHAT'S UP, HARUKA?
Psst. ちょいちょい
chomp ぱく
chomp ぱく
chomp ぱく
WHAT'LL WE DO? URMMGH...
BUT WE'VE BEEN SOUNDLY DEFEATED. LOOK AT HIM, HE'S STILL EATING!
drat
drat
drat
drat

...BUT THAT THING THERE...
I DIDN'T NOTICE THIS BEFORE, ON AN EMPTY STOMACH...


THEN THAT MEANS HE'S...
SEE HOW HIS TAIL LOOKS LIKE PAPER?

A SHIKIGAMI ?!
slash

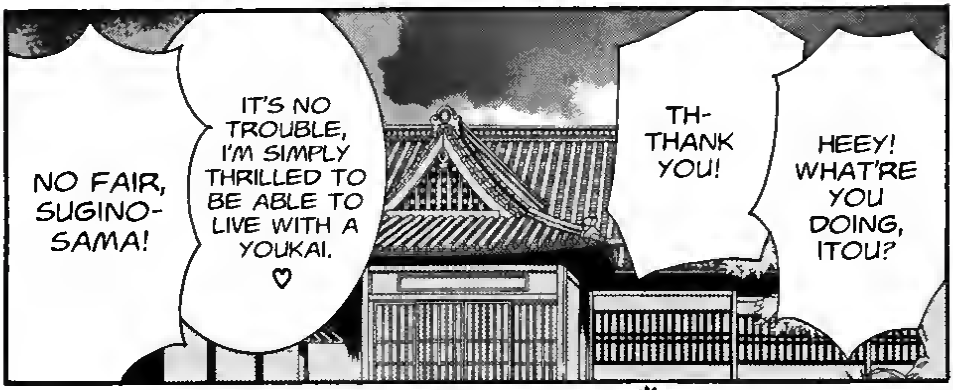
SO THE REAL CULPRIT ...
...IS SOMEONE ELSE ENTIRELY!
crinkle
7
IF EVEN MISTER KANTA-ROU CAN'T STOP IT...
...MAYBE I SHOULD VACATE THIS MANSION...
WE HAVE TO START OVER FROM SQUARE ONE? THERE AREN'T ANY CLUES!!
GAAAH, WHAT'LL WE DO NOOOOW?!

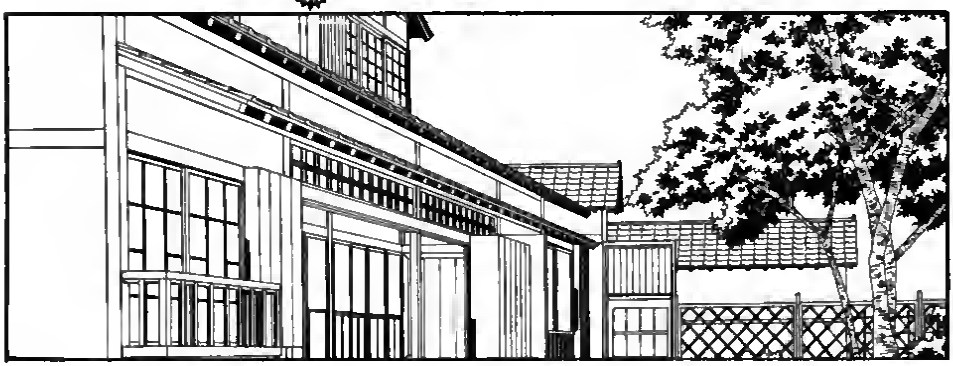
HM?
pat pat
さすさす
pluf pluf pluf
beam
ow!!
wham
NGA AAA HH!!
THANKS, I FEEL MUCH BETTER. ♡
AWW, MUU-CHAN'S SMILING AT ME!!
nuzzle nuzzle
HUH?!

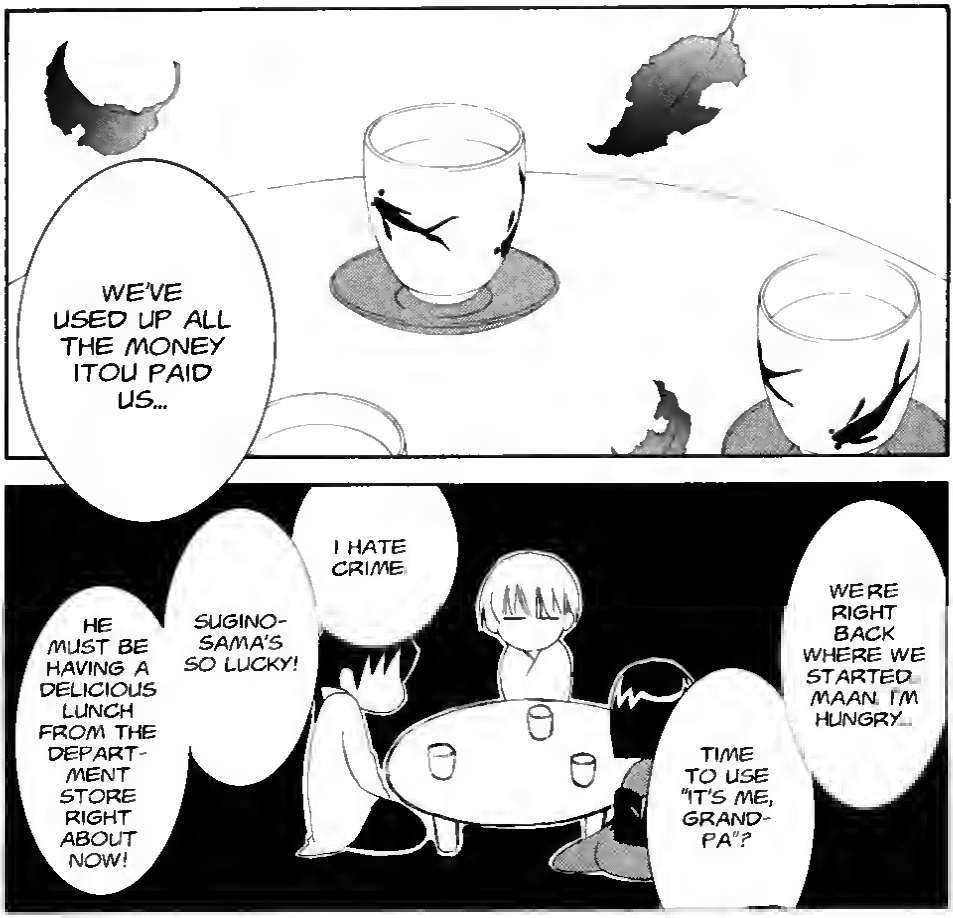
Squeeze
ギュ
MUU-CHAN'S SMILE!!
I'M IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN!
ぐるん
turn
OH, CRAP! MY UNBEARABLE INFATUATION'S LURED ME OUT OF HIDING.
HA HA, HEY GUYS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU EVEN MADE A SHIKIGAMI. WHY DID YOU DO ALL THIS, SUGINO-SAMA?
IT'S ONE THING FOR A YOUKAI TO PRANK HUMANS, BUT YOU'RE A GOD!
whap
ボカ
スカ
bam
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW, DUMB-ASS!
スカ
wham
EEEYA!
BUT THEN I GOT ALL SMOTHERED IN THE LOVE COMING FROM MUU-CHAN'S SMILE AND JUST COULDN'T RESIST IT.
I WANTED TO SCARE AWAY THE PEOPLE LIVING HERE AND MAKE THIS HOUSE OUR VACATION HOME IN THE CITY.
スパーン
whap
Bwuh?
AND I WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED TOO, IF NOT FOR YOU MEDDLERS!
hic
ひっく
hic
WAAH!
SORRY... I'M SO SORRY! I JUST WANTED FOR ME AND MUU-CHAN TO--

HUH? YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!
IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY WITH ME?
I LIKE BEING AROUND YOUKAI WHO I CAN ACTUALLY SEE.
HEH HEH!


NO FAIR, SUGINO-SAMA!
IT'S NO TROUBLE, I'M SIMPLY THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH A YOUKAI. ♡
TH-THANK YOU!
HEEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, ITOU?




WE'VE USED UP ALL THE MONEY ITOU PAID US...
I HATE CRIME
SUGINO-SAMA'S SO LUCKY!
HE MUST BE HAVING A DELICIOUS LUNCH FROM THE DEPART-MENT STORE RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED. MAAN, I'M HUNGRY...
TIME TO USE "IT'S ME, GRAND-PA"?

SMILING WHILE WORKING SOMEONE TO THE BONE...
RICH PEOPLE SUCK!!
smile smile
NO LUNCH UNTIL YOU'VE FINISHED MOPPING THE FLOOR, ALRIGHT?

はばたけ！戦術学園

Fly Away! Tactics Academy

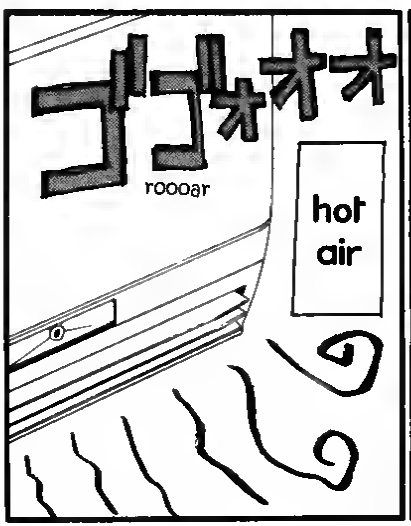
A Special Someone In Midsummer!

I'M MELTING...
IZZ HOOOT...
I CAN'T DO THIS!
くぅぅぅ
うだぁーっ
Melting...
SHUT UP! DON'T YOU PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOUR GRADES?
Book: Even a Monkey Can Understand Heian Aristocratic Life
ECOOOO!
HEY, SENSEI, WHY DOESN'T THIS SCHOOL HAVE AC??
PLEASE, SENSEI!
IT'S HARD TO FIND THE WILL TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS HEAT...
EH...
bzzz
じりじり
sizzle

Gakuran Jacket in Midsummer
What? Me? I'm not taking this off.
YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING!

HRM, THAT'S VIOLATING PUBLIC HEALTH CODES, SO I CAN'T IGNORE IT.
I NEED TO GET THAT JACKET OFF OF HIM SOME-HOW.
むぅ
Hrrm.

HE'S WEAR-ING A JACKET ?!
I'M GETTING HOTTER JUST LOOKING AT HIM!
PLUS HE REEKS OF SWEAT !!
HE DOES HAVE... A CERTAIN... FUNK...
Phew!
What died in here?!


ゴゴゴォオオ
roooar
hot air

Huh? But how?
TELL US, TELL US!

ACK, IT'S TOO MUCH!
AUGH, NOW IT'S ABOVE SKIN TEMPERATURE!
はわわ
PANIC
WHY DOES THIS SCHOOL HAVE HEATERS BUT NO AC?!!
ぞくぞく
shudder
にこっ
smile
Ahhh.
IT FEELS LIKE A GENTLE, WARM EMBRACE!
ゴゴゴゴ
roar
K-KAN-CHAN... AREN'T YOU BROILING?!
ENDURANCE CONTEST STANDBY. RED-HOT NABEYAKI UDON
OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS?

slurp
Y-YES SIR!!
I, SAKATA, SHALL HUMBLY PARTAKE!!
gurk
HEY, SAKATA! THERE'S A BOWL FOR YOU TOOO!
IT'S...
WHY IS SAKATA BRAGGING?
HARK TO MY WORDS! THIS REPAST WAS GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY RAIKOU-SAMA! CONSUME IT WITH GRATITUDE, COMMONERS!
aghast
ガーン
ずるっちょ
slurp slurp
DELICIOUS!! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS STUFF IN AGES! AHA HA!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL, MINAMOTO-KUN! ♡
IS THIS STUFF MEANT TO BE EDIBLE?!
crash
Ah!
FORGIVE ME, RAIKOU-SAMA, I BEG YOU!
SAKATA, YOU SUCK...
HELL'S COFFEE
bubble
bubble
steam
steam
steam
It's on, Ichinomiya!
UH... OKAY, HERE'S OUR LAST TRY!

CON-GRATULA-TIONS! YOU WON!
ALL RIGHT, FINE! WE LOST, KANTA-ROU!!
WHA? HUH?
rush
glug
glug
glug
Eeeeep!!
...
JUST TELL ME! WHIS-PER IF YOU MUST !!
BUT WHAT THE HECK HAVE YOU GOT UNDER THAT JACKET ?!

きゃあーーっ
Gaaaaah!!
ぬぎっ
strip
peel
IT'S A JACKET MATRO-SHKA!

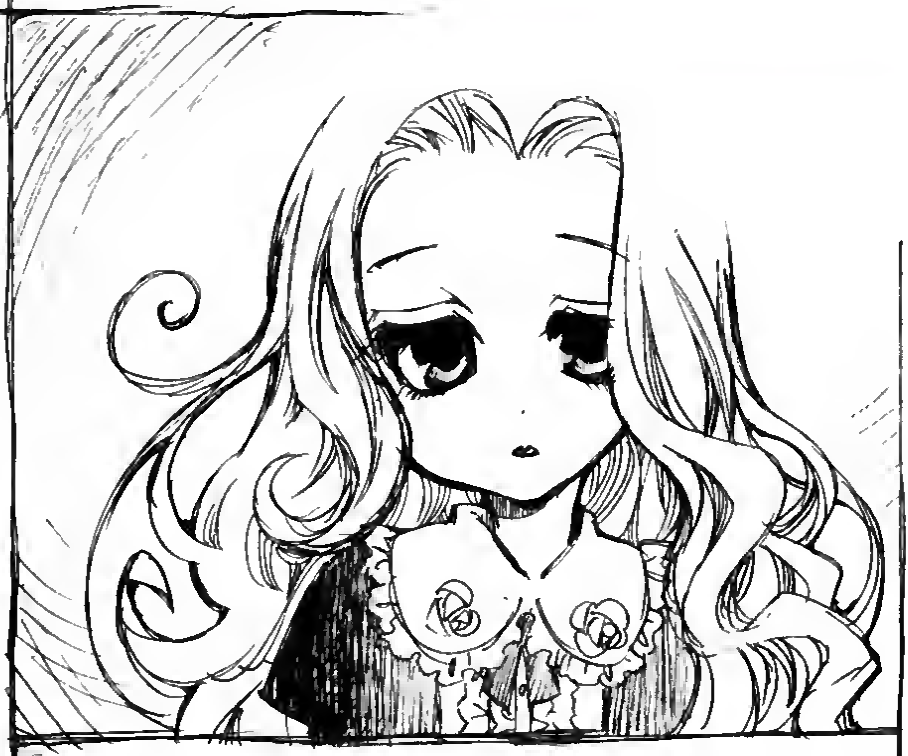
FROM Kazuko Higashiyama

Thank you very much for buying volume 12!
I'm doing my best, so I hope you'll continue to support us.

I wonder to myself, "Could I do another short with these three?" But that just makes me want to strangle myself.

東山和子

FROM Sakura Kinoshita



I sincerely thank you for purchasing Tactics volume 12. I'm happy we could all meet again. Even though I'm essentially dropping each character in Tactics into their own mudslinging contest, I still can't help thinking, "I hope everyone will be happy soon!"

木下さくら。